

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SAD GOODBYE

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William Haskell Pinckard of Bakersfield, California. Mr. Pinckard was known to all as, simply, "Pinky." He passed away January 9, 2005 at his home in California.

Pinky dedicated his life to his fellow Kern County community members. He moved to California from Oklahoma in 1950, and life for Kern County residents from that point on was not the same. Pinky touched many lives through the numerous organizations in which he was involved. He was a member of the Community of Christ Church, Masons, Shriners, and Eastern Star. A life long member of the Democratic Party, Pinky received many awards for his service as an ardent activist. He represented local #743 Carpenters Union; for his dedication to advocacy, the Labor Union also recognized Pinky.

The truth of the matter is Pinky was a civic-minded individual, who took seriously his role as an American citizen. All too often, we forget that activism, and outreach, and grassroots efforts are the foundation upon which we build our representative government. Pinky never forgot, and he never let anybody around him forget. Those who commemorate Pinky's life will forever be changed by the contributions he made to society.

TRIBUTE TO WHITNALL SUMMIT, 2004 BUSINESS OF THE YEAR, WEST ALLIS-WEST MILWAUKEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and commend the Whitnall Summit Company, being honored by the West Allis-West Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce as 2004 Company of the Year.

Whitnall Summit was established just ten years ago with a plan to acquire segments of the former Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing property in West Allis. Allis-Chalmers had been one of the main drivers of the local economy in West Allis, providing thousands of jobs along with a community identity. When a physical plant the size of Allis-Chalmers closes, the impact on the community is both monetary and psychological. Manufacturing job losses have cost our communities good-paying, family-supporting jobs, along with a strong revenue base. The loss of Allis Chalmers hit hard.

Great companies inspire a community's pride and empty buildings hurt the spirit of a city.

Thanks to Whitnall Summit, West Allis is participating in a "re-urbanization" as these large empty buildings have been rehabilitated. Further, those buildings are now occupied with retail and offices, community-based organizations and indoor parking. In 10 short years, Whitnall Summit with strong support from the city's TIF district, has converted factory buildings into 300,000 square feet of office space, all leased, with a large parking structure nearing completion.

I congratulate Whitnall Summit for its success and its collaboration with the city of West Allis in returning this site to an opportunity for growth.

HONORING THE FAYETTEVILLE TOWPATH QUILT GUILD

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, it is with a warm heart I rise today to pay tribute to an organization lending support to our men and women in uniform, the Towpath Quilt Guild of Fayetteville, NY.

About 80 members of the Towpath Quilt Guild have harnessed their skills to hand make quilts for recovering soldiers at Bethesda Naval and Walter Reed Army Medical Center. In early spring, these quilts will be personally delivered in hopes of offering another layer of comfort and warm sentiment to our service members.

In this time period when so many of our loved ones are scattered around the globe ensuring American's freedom and safety, the Towpath Quilt Guild has expressed with gifts what we all wish to convey. Thank you for all you do. And thank you, Towpath Quilt Guild.

HONORING BROWNIE TROOP 1593 IN MANASSAS, VA

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Brownie Troop 1593 of Manassas, VA. Last year, the 18 girls who make up Troop 1593 dedicated themselves to providing support to the brave men and women who are defending our freedom overseas.

Brownie Troop 1593 is comprised of Colby Newson, Ariel Morrow, Arianna Robinson, Juliana Thinnies, Juliana Magalhaes, Allison Robinson, Deanka Mullins, Wendy Cornier, Christina Owusu, Alondra Morales, Hannah Gabaldon, Madeline Greco-Parkin, Kimberly Klejka, Jayme Mathews, Cameron Roberts, Madison Roberts, Megan Duarte, and Emily Buckley.

In April, the troop collected donations from Girl Scout cookie sales and sent cookies, per-

sonal care items, games, cards, and goodie bags to the soldiers. They also provided similar support to four U.S. Navy Ships: the USS *John F. Kennedy*, USS *Spruance*, USS *Harpers Ferry*, and the USS *Harry S. Truman*. Additionally, the girls have sent comfort items to a Navy Medic serving in Fallujah, Iraq.

The troop also helped brighten the lives of service men and women through a pen pal program with two of the aircraft carriers. Through this mutually beneficial exchange, the young girls learned about respect for their country, the incredible sacrifice that the Armed Forces make, the important jobs that the service men and women perform, teamwork, community service, loyalty and friendship.

The troop plans to continue its efforts in 2005. They have scheduled visits to both the USS *John F. Kennedy* and USS *Harry S. Truman*. They will also send Valentines Day cards to a platoon in Iraq and will be repeating their Girl Scout Cookie drive to send additional cookies and other items to soldiers overseas.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Brownie Troop 1593. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding the troop's accomplishments. Their contributions and efforts are much appreciated and should be celebrated. I wish them the best of luck in all future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RE- AUTHORIZE THE NEW JERSEY COASTAL HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail incorporates the very best of what the great State of New Jersey has to offer the rest of the Nation. Established by Congress in 1988, the Trail unifies New Jersey's many scenic points of interest. These points of interest include a wealth of environmental, historic, maritime, and recreational sights found along New Jersey's coastline, stretching 300 miles from Perth Amboy in the north, Cape May in the extreme southern tip of the State and Deepwater to the west.

The trail's area includes three National Wildlife Refuges, four tributaries of a Wild and Scenic River system, a Civil War fort and national cemetery, several lighthouses, historic homes, and other sites tied to southern New Jersey's maritime history. Through a network of themes and destinations, the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail connects people with places of historic, recreational, environmental and maritime interest.

One exciting aspect of the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route is its focus on maritime history. There is a rich story to be told about the industries once sustained by the Delaware Bay, such as whaling, shipbuilding,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

oystering and crabbing. While we often define our Nation's history through military or political milestones, the Trail will serve to remind visitors that maritime-dependent commerce was a major factor in the growth of the United States.

"Eco-tourism" along the Coastal Heritage Trail has proven to be a huge success. There is an abundant variety of natural habitats and species to be found on the Trail. Whale and dolphin watching have become extremely popular, and bird lovers from throughout the country, and in fact around the world, are realizing what Southern New Jersey residents have known all along: our region is unmatched for observing migratory birds, ospreys, and bald eagles.

Today, I am introducing legislation to reauthorize the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail Route. This legislation would extend the authorization of the trail to provide additional funding over 2 years to continue the work begun in 1988. It would also initiate a Strategic Plan which would explore opportunities to increase participation by national and local private and public interests, as well as organizational options for sustaining the trail.

The New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail has helped New Jersey residents develop pride, awareness, experience with, and understanding of our coastal resources and its history. This reauthorization will allow the trail to continue and flourish.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF RICHARD PUCKETT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Richard Puckett, the operations manager of the Mid-Cumberland area of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Richard is retiring from the Corps after 42 years of service.

During his tenure Middle Tennessee communities saw vast improvements to recreational facilities available on Corps-managed lakes in the Mid-Cumberland region that I represent. Not only do these lakes and facilities improve the mental and physical well-being of our citizens, they also greatly benefit local economies. Richard, therefore, can take much credit for enhancing the lives of many Middle Tennesseans.

His professionalism and responsiveness to the public's needs have been admirable. It has been a real pleasure working with Richard and his staff over the years. The Corps of Engineers and the people of the Mid-Cumberland are going to miss him, but Richard deserves some recreational time of his own. Once again, I congratulate him on a great career and wish him the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO SPECIALIST JONATHAN CASTRO

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a hero from my congressional district. On December 21, 2004, U.S. Army Specialist Jonathan Castro of my hometown of Corona, CA, was killed in Mosul, Iraq. Specialist Castro, along with 18 other American soldiers, died from injuries sustained when their dining facility was attacked. I would ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service to his country. Specialist Castro will be remembered as a hero who lived a life filled with compassion and a respect for all people.

Jonathan, son of Jorge and Vickie Castro, spent most of his life in Corona, CA. The summer after graduating from Corona's Centennial High School in 2001, he enlisted in the Army. He entered the military with the hope that it would enable him to pay his own way through school and would open his eyes to the world. He was assigned to the 73rd Engineer Company in Fort Lewis, WA, and was deployed to Iraq in October, 2004.

He is remembered not only for his caring nature, but also for his intelligence. He was a budding engineer with a talent for working with metals and wood, as well as having strong skills in computer-aided drafting. He demonstrated creativity and ingenuity during high school as he built his own electric guitar, as well as a full-sized electric car.

On December 1, 2004, in Mosul, Iraq, while sharing a meal with his fellow soldiers, the dining facility was attacked. This has been the deadliest blast to date at a U.S. military base in Iraq, with 22 people killed. Specialist Castro was only 21 years old. He is survived by his loving parents and seven brothers. Jonathan was decorated posthumously with the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

Jonathan, and men and women like him, contribute to the incredibly rich history of our country. I commend all our service members who volunteer to defend our ideals of freedom and democracy.

I extend my ongoing thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude to the Castro family. I hope they know their son and brother's goodness and sacrifice will never be forgotten.

INTRODUCING SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION LEGISLATION

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Same Day Voter Registration Act of 2005. This legislation is simple and straightforward: it would allow every eligible citizen to register and vote on Election Day for Federal elections.

The right to vote is the most fundamental of American democratic values. Yet, last November we again heard disturbing reports of voter intimidation, disenfranchisement, machine

error, and fraud. If we truly value the right to vote, we must do more to restore public trust in the integrity of our election process.

We should also remove cumbersome voter preregistration requirements. My home State of Minnesota has allowed same day voter registration since 1974. The result: Minnesota is a national leader in voter participation. In 2004, 77.7 percent of eligible Minnesotans voted. Over 20 percent of those voters registered on Election Day.

Same-day voter registration has greatly contributed to consistently high voter turnout in Minnesota. I believe this law has also encouraged new voters, especially young people, to turn out in higher numbers.

Many of the States with low voter turnout also have preregistration requirements of up to 30 days. It is unknown how many Americans have been prevented from exercising their constitutional right to vote only because they were unaware of cumbersome preregistration requirements. My bill will ensure that everyone with the legal right can vote, even those who become engaged in the closing days of an election.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in making Same Day Voter Registration the law of the land.

RECOGNIZING FRANK WOODRUFF BUCKLES

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frank Woodruff Buckles, a World War I veteran who lives in Jefferson County, WV, and cordially ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in wishing Mr. Buckles a happy 104th birthday.

Frank Woodruff Buckles was born in Harrison County, MO, in 1901. At age 16, Mr. Buckles enlisted in the U.S. Army and remains today one of America's few surviving Veterans of the Great War. Following the Armistice of 1918, Mr. Buckles helped escort POWs back to Germany, only to ironically become a POW himself while working for a steamship company in the Philippines during the Japanese invasion of 1941. As a POW, Frank Buckles took it upon himself to help his fellow prisoners by tending the sick and feeding the hungry. In fact, Mr. Buckles even convinced the Japanese, who were starving and torturing the prisoners, to allow him to plant a vegetable garden in the camp so the prisoners would have more rations. On February 23, 1945, General MacArthur got word of the prisoners and ordered the 11th Airborne Division to rescue them. With no casualties taken during the rescue, the prisoners were freed and their 3-year ordeal was finally over.

Following the war, Frank married Audrey Mayo and moved to the farm in Jefferson County, WV that his ancestors have owned since 1732. At age 104, Frank Buckles continues to work the farm, drive his tractor, and likes to read books in several different languages. Frank Buckles is an American hero and truly an inspiration to us all.

In honor of Frank Buckles and his many years of hard work, dedication, and commitment to his family, community, and country, I

ask my friends in Jefferson County and my colleagues here in Congress to join me in wishing him a happy 104th birthday.

HONORING KVBC CHANNEL 3 ON
ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor KVBC Channel 3 on their 50th anniversary. Just as Southern Nevada has grown, so has Channel 3, the NBC affiliate serving fast-growing Southern Nevada in the Nation's 51st television market.

In 1954, the original Channel 3 studio began in a small building on Desert Inn and Boulder Highway. In 1979, Channel 3 moved into their current studios, a one-time roller rink, on Foremaster Lane and Las Vegas Boulevard.

Today, Channel 3 is the highest rated local nightly newscast, reaching a population of nearly 1.7 million people in Southern Nevada. In fact, every week, 4 out of 5 homes in Clark, Lincoln and Nye Counties tune in to Channel 3.

KVBC Channel 3 is owned by Jim Rogers, Chairman of the Sunbelt Communications Company. Mr. Rogers is a long-time Las Vegas and one of the largest contributors to education in the Nation. He is currently the Interim Chancellor of Nevada's University system.

Channel 3 is also home to many long-time employees and on-camera personalities such as Sue Manteris, Denise Rosch, Kendall Tenney, Jim Snyder, Nina Radetich, Beth Fisher, John Fredericks, Captain Gregg Deacon, Tom Hawley, Mitch Roberts, Rick Strasser, and General Manager Gene Greenberg who has been with Channel 3 for 28 years. Each of these individuals has been generous with their own time serving the community they love.

KVBC Channel 3 has always dedicated itself to bringing the news of the day to Southern Nevada residents, and stands firm in its commitment to be "Where News Comes First." I extend my best wishes to Jim Rogers and his entire team at KVBC Channel 3 on the 50th anniversary of the television station.

MEN'S HEALTH ACT

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, over the past 20 years Congress has devoted a great deal of time and money addressing the important issues facing women's health. We created an Office of Women's Health at the NIH and we have taken great strides to increase the number of women included in health studies. We have undoubtedly saved hundreds of thousands of women's lives, improved the quality of many millions more, and we have every reason to be proud.

However, we must now begin to focus on the crisis in men's health too. The simple fact is that every year hundreds of men suffer and

die needless—and entirely preventable—deaths.

In 1994, Congress established National Men's Health Week, the week leading up to and including Father's Day. Unfortunately, men's health is not getting any better.

I believe it is time for us to establish an Office of Men's Health. For that reason, I am introducing legislation today that will establish an Office of Men's Health at the Department of Health and Human Services to monitor, coordinate and improve men's health in America.

America needs a concerted effort to combat the problems facing men's health. This year, over 230,000 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer and approximately 30,000 of these men will die. Of course, we cannot save all these men. Nevertheless, we could save a lot of them. While mammograms and Pap smears have dramatically reduced the death rate from breast and cervical cancers, the death rate from prostate cancer could be reduced by widespread use of a simple test called the PSA. But many Americans have never heard of it.

I am one of the thousands of men who have been saved by a simple PSA test. I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. During my annual examination, my doctor noticed a slight elevation in the readings of a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) test. However, it was only after a prostate biopsy that it was determined that I had cancer. Following the diagnosis, with my family, we decided that I should go ahead and have surgery. I am fortunate that my cancer was detected early, that I had a doctor who was familiar with PSA test results, and that I had healthcare coverage for my treatments. In my case, and in the cases of thousands of men, early detection and treatment have meant the difference between life and death.

However, prostate cancer is only a small component of the men's health crisis: men have a higher death rate than women do for every single one of the ten leading causes of death in this country. Men are twice as likely to die of heart disease—the number one killer—40 percent more likely to die of cancer, and 20 percent more likely to die of a stroke. At the turn of the last century, men and women had equal life expectancies. At the turn of this one, women outlive men by 6 years.

Admittedly, the largest part of the problem is that men do not take particularly good care of themselves. Only about half as many men as women have a regular physician. Overall, women are twice as likely as men to visit a doctor for regular check-up factoring out women's prenatal visits.

So if we got men to start going to the doctor would men start living longer? Well, it could not hurt. In a study published by the Commonwealth Fund, nearly 70 percent of men over 40 who visited the doctor were not even asked whether they had a family history of prostate cancer. Men making less than \$50,000 a year were even less likely to be asked. Forty percent of men over 50—who should be getting a prostate exam every single year—were not even screened by their doctors. Going to the doctor won't do anything about the fact that four times as many men commit suicide as women, that the victims of violent crime are 75 percent male, that 98 percent of the people who work in the most dangerous jobs in this country are men, and that 92 percent of people who die in the workplace are men.

What can we do about this? First, we can make men's health a public priority. Just as we support public service announcements aimed at getting women to get regular mammograms and do routine self exams, we must support the same kind of campaign to get men to get regular health checkups and do routine self exams. Testicular cancer, which is the most common cancer in men under 35, is curable if caught early enough. In addition, one of the best ways to do that is to teach boys and young men to check themselves out at least once a month.

As precious as life is, men—just like women—should have the benefit of as much of it as they possibly can. Because they live so much longer, women are in the unenviable position of seeing their husbands, fathers, and even their sons suffer and die prematurely.

So this year, let's spend some time figuring out what we can do to help men be better healthcare consumers and what we can do to give men the support and encouragement and resources they need to be the kind of fathers their kids need them to be and that they truly want to be.

I also hope that all my colleagues will help me by supporting my legislation to establish an Office of Men's Health.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PUSH
POLL DISCLOSURE ACT OF 2005

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing legislation to increase the disclosure requirements for telephone "push polls." As many candidates for public office have learned through personal experience, these push polls are not legitimate telephone surveys, but campaign devices designed to smear a candidate under the guise of a standard opinion poll.

Imagine a voter, who has been identified as a supporter of candidate X, being asked in a survey if this support would continue if it was learned that candidate X was guilty of a terrible indiscretion or an outright crime. It doesn't matter whether the allegations are true because the idea that candidate X is somehow unfit for office has been planted successfully. This is a telephone push poll, or "smear" poll.

My legislation, the Push Poll Disclosure Act of 2005, combats this practice by exposing it to the light of day. Specifically, the bill requires that each participant in a federal election poll be told the identity of the survey's sponsor whenever at least 1,200 households are included. It also requires further disclosures when a survey's results are not to be released to the public. In this case, the cost of the poll and the sources of its funding must be reported to the Federal Election Commission, along with a count of the households contacted and a transcript of the questions asked.

The Push Poll Disclosure Act of 2005 is a simple bill. It will not hinder legitimate polling, nor will it burden polling firms with excessive regulations. What this bill does do, however, is regulate smear polls for what they are—campaign activities, and questionable ones at that. This legislation is noncontroversial and should be bipartisan, and its passage will make campaigns for federal office a little bit cleaner. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CHIEF
MICHAEL J. PRESTON

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael J. Preston, Newark, California's Fire Chief, who is retiring after thirty years of exemplary service.

Chief Preston joined the Newark Fire Department on May 1, 1974 as a firefighter. He rose through the ranks to be appointed City of Newark Fire Chief on January 1, 2001. He was president of the Newark Firefighters Association from 1980 to 1985 and assumed the duties of Fire Marshal on December 16, 1987. In his capacity as Fire Marshal, Chief Preston developed the City's sprinkler ordinance for residential occupancies. He was promoted to First Assistant Fire Chief on January 1, 1990 and promoted to Assistant Fire Chief in 1993.

In 1998, Chief Preston served as the City of Newark's Disaster coordinator and in this capacity, procured an auxiliary water system for emergency use. He was also instrumental in promoting the highest level of advanced life support by supporting the presence of paramedics on City of Newark fire engines. In 1999, Chief Preston served as President of the Alameda County Fire Chief's Emergency Medical Services Section.

He has made numerous contributions to enhance the fire safety of Newark's residents. He secured the Automatic Aid Agreement with the neighboring city of Union City and supported technological advancements for the city by procuring advanced technology fire engines that improved service levels. He has also promoted programs that have proven beneficial to the County of Alameda by assisting in the development of the Alameda County Emergency Medical Service System.

I join the admirers of Michael J. Preston's thirty years of dedicated commitment to excellence and offer my sincere appreciation for all he has done to make a difference.

527S

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to draw awareness to a bill I will reintroduce to address concerns that have been expressed about political organizations referred to as "527s".

527s are named after a section of the Internal Revenue Code that specifies the tax treatment accorded political organizations and tax-exempt organizations which make political expenditures. Under Section 527, all political organizations are tax-exempt for purposes of federal tax law.

Starting this month, new rules will require more 527s to register with the FEC. 527s whose only purpose is to support or oppose a Federal candidate may only do so with "hard money". Citizens who give to the hard money accounts of these 527s will be under the same contribution limits as if they were giving to Members of Congress. 527s will also not be

able to finance their entire operation using "soft money". They will now have to use a mix of at least 50 percent hard money to pay for activities and expenses, raised using federal limits.

This legislation goes a step farther to give the Department of the Treasury, the Federal Election Commission, and the American people a better understanding of 527 organizations by aiming to place them to the same type of reporting requirements as political action committees (PACs) and other political organizations.

This bill will provide the American people with more information about who is donating to the political process and how that money is being spent. If we want to inspire and encourage more Americans to participate in the political process, we must make all aspects of the process accessible to them.

This bill would make 527s more transparent through the four main components of this bill. First, any political organization that meets defined minimum financial requirements must disclose this information to the Department of the Treasury. Second, political organizations that raise, spend or intend to raise and spend over \$25,000 in an election year will have to file disclosure reports with the IRS monthly. Previously, organizations in this category were only required to file quarterly. Third, organizations with less than \$25,000 in receipts must file quarterly. Fourth, the Department of the Treasury and the Federal Election Commission must work together to improve the database disclosure system.

The guidelines in my bill will bring to light political organizations' donors and demonstrate they have nothing to hide. Moreover, this information will help Americans to make more informed choices.

I believe that efforts to restrict 527 organizations could raise First Amendment concerns and may merely result in their reconstitution as 501(c)4, 501(c)5 and 501(c)6 organizations, which have virtually no public disclosure requirements. I believe that it would be more beneficial to our political process to mandate greater transparency of 527s rather than attempting to shut them down or otherwise curtail their participation in the political process. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

BITTERSWEET RETIREMENT

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and wish well in retirement Mr. Tom Clark, of Bakersfield, California. This individual has served his community, his state, and his country well.

Born October 21, 1945, Tom attended school in Bakersfield until he joined the army in 1968 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant E-5. Following his honorable discharge in 1970, Tom enrolled in the Graduate Program at University of Pittsburgh; where he graduated in 1974 with a Master of Science in Water Supply-Water Pollution Control.

We are thankful Tom utilized his training in school to become a key player in water issues back home, in the Central Valley.

Tom was an initiator of the effort to create the Bay-Delta Accord of 1994 as a response to unreliable water supplies. This agreement was a precursor to the CalFed Record of Decision by the Department of the Interior, which provided for a series of agreements between water agencies and environmentalists.

He was a key player in negotiating the Monterey Amendments to the State Water Project contracts that included crucial revisions to the water shortage provision and the transfer of the Kern Water Bank from the State of California to the Kern Water Bank Authority, a Joint Powers Authority. Tom's efforts were lauded by the community and as a show of gratitude he received the prestigious Association of California water Agencies' Excellence in Water Leadership Award in 1996.

Among his many accomplishments, Tom has taken part in numerous state and local water activities; not only in the public sector, but also in the private sector. He has established himself as an authority on water issues, serving as an expert witness for water management and water rights before state and federal courts as well as before the State Water Resources Control Board.

More recently Tom has been challenged as the Kern County Water Agency General Manager, and taken on a number of significant projects and responsibilities including the acquisition of Kern Lower River rights and the coordination of the Agency's supports toward the passage of the CalFed authorization in October 2004.

Tom has served the people of the state of California and the community of Bakersfield in an exemplary manner. For us, his retirement is bittersweet—although it is well deserved his efforts will be greatly missed. I congratulate Tom Clark, and wish his family all the best.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MEJCHAR, 2004
WISCONSIN CITIZEN OF THE
YEAR, WEST ALLIS-WEST MILWAUKEE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Jim Mejchar, retiring President of the West Allis-West Milwaukee Chamber of Commerce in February 2005. Mr. Mejchar served in that position for 9 years.

Mr. Mejchar has resided in West Allis for over 40 years, and served on the West Allis police force for 27 years, retiring as a Police Captain. Further, he worked as a Community Development Officer for the Tri-City Bank.

Jim represents a commitment to which we should all aspire, the willingness to get involved and give back to his city. Mr. Mejchar has a firm dedication to community service as demonstrated by his participation on a number of committees and organizations, including: City of West Allis' Block Grant Committee, West Allis Historical Society, West Allis Business Improvement Board and Central Committee, Wisconsin State Fair Board, the West Allis Strategic Planning Committee and West Allis Media Committee Board. Currently he serves on the board of the Kids From Wisconsin and is the Secretary of the West Allis Rotary Club.

I am pleased to recognize Jim Mejchar's accomplishments today. I, along with the people of West Allis wish him a much earned retirement. Congratulations and thank you, Jim, for your dedication to public service.

**YOUNG AGENCY CELEBRATING A
CENTURY IN BUSINESS**

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Young Agency, Inc., an independent insurance, bonding, and risk-management company located on Syracuse's North Side. Since its inception in 1905, the agency has grown into a 100 employee business with close to 10,000 clients.

George Young, the founder of Young Agency, began his business in 1905 by selling fire insurance door-to-door. After several location changes, the agency moved to its current office at Bridewater Place at 500 Plum St. George Young passed away in 1936, leaving the agency to his sons, Albert and Carl. With the help of George Schunck, George's grandson, and Roy S. Moore III, the current president, the agency has expanded into a respected company with more than \$220 million in annual premiums. In 2001, Young merged with Florida-based Brown & Brown, Inc., the nation's eighth-largest insurance brokerage firm.

On behalf of the clients, employees and community members of Syracuse, I extend my best wishes and many more successful years to the Young Agency, a valued fixture in our community.

**HONORING CAPTAIN MARK
STUBENHOFFER**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Captain Mark Stubenhofer and his remarkable service to the United States of America.

Captain Stubenhofer was born on April 18, 1974 in Fairfax, Virginia. He grew up here in the suburbs of this great capital of freedom and was an all-American from the start. He delivered newspapers in the morning before school and worked long after the school day ended doing homework or practicing baseball. He attended West Springfield High School here in Fairfax, Virginia and attended Nativity Catholic Church nearby. He was elected Student Government Vice President at West Springfield and during his senior year played baseball on the varsity squad. He attended Clemson University where his leadership skills were honed through the school's ROTC program. He graduated from Clemson in May of 1996 and immediately began fulfilling his obligation to the Army.

Captain Stubenhofer was commissioned as an infantry officer and attended both the elite Airborne and Ranger schools. He went on to serve two tours in support of Operation Iraqi

Freedom. In his first tour in 2003 he helped liberate five Iraqi cities. In his second tour Captain Stubenhofer served as a company commander for the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He was awarded numerous medals and honors, among them two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal, and two Army Commendation Medals. Tragically, he was killed in combat on December 7, 2004.

During his final tour of duty, Captain Stubenhofer's third child was born—a daughter he would never see or hold. He asked his wife Patty to name the child Hope. Mark, in his last phone conversation to his parents, commented that it was hope that brought him to Iraq and to the service of his country.

Mr. Speaker, we owe Captain Mark Stubenhofer, and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, a debt of gratitude that can never be repaid. While we pay homage to fallen heroes like Mark with monuments of stone, the most fitting tribute is the enduring memory of their lives. As Pericles, the great orator, builder, and general of Athens said, "For to famous men all the earth is a sepulcher; and their virtues shall be testified not only by the inscription in stone at home but by an unwritten record of the mind, which more than of any monument will remain with everyone forever."

Mr. Speaker, I call on this body to forever remember Captain Mark Stubenhofer and to keep record in our minds and hearts, the great works and sacrifices that our sons and daughters of the military continue to make on our behalf.

INTRODUCTION OF JOHN'S LAW

HON. FRANK A. LoBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LoBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, we will soon observe the fifth anniversary of the tragic death of one of my constituents. U.S. Navy Ensign John Elliott, who had just received his commission to Naval Flight School in Pensacola, Florida, was struck and killed by a drunk driver on July 22, 2000. The accident instantly killed Elliott and seriously injured his passenger, Kristen Hohenwarter.

Sadly, it was later discovered that the driver responsible for Elliott's death had been arrested for drunken driving earlier that evening. Having called for a ride, he was picked up by a friend and returned to his car. Elliott was on his way home for his mother's birthday party when he crossed paths with the intoxicated driver.

Nearly 5 years after that tragic accident, his parents continue the fight to save other families from the grief they have endured. Lobbying the New Jersey State Legislature, the Elliott's saw to fruition the drafting, passage and ultimate enactment of John's Law. The law ensures that individuals who pick up an arrested driver sign a document accepting custody. Additionally, it gives State Police the authorization to impound the automobile of an arrested driver for up to 12 hours.

Today, I am introducing legislation to encourage all states to enact legislation to require law enforcement officers to impound

motor vehicles of those charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). The legislation would make states that adopt DWI vehicle impoundment programs eligible to receive federal grant funds under the existing Alcohol Impaired Countermeasures Program to help defray costs.

We are making important strides to eliminate the senseless deaths caused by the lethal mix of alcohol and automobiles. Annual deaths from drinking and driving have decreased from approximately 28,000 in 1980 to 16,068 in 2000. In 1982, 57 percent of all traffic fatalities were alcohol-related. In 2000, that percentage fell to 38 percent. However, much work remains to be done. Each death is a preventable one and I am sure this resolution will go a long way in ensuring deaths like Ensign Elliott's are prevented and families are saved from the pain the Elliotts and other families across the nation have endured.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this legislation.

**IN HONOR OF SPECIALIST
MICHAEL S. EVANS**

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen soldier who lost his life in the line of duty. On January 28, 2005, United States Army Specialist Michael S. Evans died in Baghdad when his military vehicle was struck by an improvised explosive device. Specialist Evans was serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Specialist Evans gave his life in the service of his country. He answered the call when his Nation needed him. His willingness to serve our country has made our Nation safer and more secure.

I hope Michael's wife Melissa, his parents Michael and Wynette, and the rest of his family and friends know that our Nation thanks him for his service and sacrifice. He served our Nation as a patriot. His contribution will never be forgotten.

Specialist Evans was assigned to B Company, 1088th Engineer Battalion, 256th Infantry Brigade, Army National Guard, New Roads, Louisiana. Specialist Evans's wife resides in Metairie, Louisiana and his parents live in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida.

INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMS DAY

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate International Customs Day and show support for all the men and women in the Department of Homeland Security who enforce our customs laws. They deserve our gratitude and appreciation.

International Customs Day marks the day that the World Customs Organization (WCO) commenced its first meeting on January 26, 1953. This date has grown in significance through the years as we better appreciate the

services performed by customs agencies around the world. These agencies keep the world economy running smoothly by facilitating the movement of imports and exports even during this time of heightened security.

The WCO evolved out of the Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), which initially was a loose conglomeration of a few members. The CCC member countries were dedicated to establishing uniform rules among the varying customs services as a way of expediting the trade process. After the number of participating members surged, the CCC renamed itself the World Customs Organization to stress the true international nature of the organization. Its current membership is 164 countries, indicating the marked dedication in the international community to the harmonization of these processes to hasten the growth of the trade facilitation process.

Our own agency for customs matters has been evolving for years to meet the ever growing demands of our country. After the world dramatically changed on September 11, 2001, the United States had to reevaluate its mechanisms to facilitate the free, yet secure, movement of trade across our borders. The new offices of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were formed within the Department of Homeland Security and remain instrumental in assuring that our border remains safe, yet open to the free transfer of goods and services which support our American workers, consumers, and industries. Thus, CBP has launched an innovative program entitled Project Shield America, which integrates trade with homeland security issues by seeking to prevent the trafficking of dangerous weapons into the United States by illegal exporters, in addition to preventing the illegal export of certain goods and commodities. At the same time CBP is continuing its work with the WCO to harmonize and unify the various customs rules which affect international commerce. Similarly, ICE has undertaken the Cornerstone project, which investigates intellectual property crime, trade fraud, and financial crime. It also participates in the coordination of the Intellectual Property Rights Coordination to protect against violations of intellectual property rights.

Levels of trade are at an all-time high, with imports at \$664 billion and \$12.2 billion in duties collected. The effective operation of customs operations is essential. Thanks to the great strides undertaken by our customs officials and by importers and exporters, 95 percent of FY 2004 entries sampled were found to be compliant with U.S. trade laws.

In the 108th Congress the Committee on Ways and Means examined the changing role of CBP and ICE in our hearing on Customs Budget Authorizations and Other Customs Issues. The Committee will continue its oversight over how CBP and ICE can effectively expedite the movement of goods and services while maintaining the safe borders we as Americans undoubtedly depend upon.

I appreciate this opportunity to personally thank the men and women of Customs for their hard work in continuing to strengthen these vital trade relationships and their vigilance in protecting our borders. I commend their dedication to their role of border protection while continuing to fulfill their long-established mission of trade facilitation.

CONTINUING CARE FOR RECOVERING FAMILIES ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, it has only been a couple months since we commemorated the third anniversary of the most devastating attack against our country since Pearl Harbor. It was a solemn day and an occasion to remember the men and women who perished on that clear Tuesday morning. For the families of the victims, September 11 will always be a difficult date on the calendar. Like the World Trade Center families, the Pentagon families, and the families of first responders, the families of the greater Boston area experienced this tragedy personally as two of the four planes involved took off from Logan Airport carrying their loved ones.

Unfortunately, for many of these brave families, their difficult days are not over. Many of the families who continue to struggle are now faced with the loss of their eligibility through the low-cost COBRA health insurance program.

The COBRA program is intended to provide stability to families as they go through a major life transition, and for 120 days following the trauma of September 11th, it provided critical health insurance for families in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Virginia, and elsewhere who lost a loved one. This temporary assistance has already expired for many of these families and without this legislation, more families will lose their eligibility. Without the security of this program they must struggle to find affordable coverage in the private market, pay enormous health care premiums or go without health insurance.

The families who had their loved ones taken away on September 11th have suffered and lost enough. The least we can do for these brave Americans is provide them with continued access to stable and affordable health insurance.

That is why Senator KENNEDY and I are introducing the "Continuing Care for Recovering Families Act." This legislation will allow families of victims of September 11th to buy health care coverage under the federal COBRA program—the temporary low-cost continuation of coverage available for those who change their job, lose their job or for families that lose their chief income earner through death.

The families who lost their loved ones on September 11th continue to face the hardship and trauma of that devastating day with courage and determination. We should do whatever we can to ease the pain of these brave Americans, and I am proud to be introducing legislation today with Senator KENNEDY to provide these families with continued access to low-cost, quality health care.

I urge the Congress to act quickly to ensure that these brave families not have to go without the security and piece of mind that medical insurance provides.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE FRIENDSHIP PACT BETWEEN THE AMERICAN RED CROSS IN GREATER NEW YORK AND JERUSALEM MAGEN DAVID ADOM

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share with my distinguished colleagues an article in the January 27, 2005 issue of the New York Sun regarding the recent announcement by the American Red Cross in Greater New York that it intends to forge a partnership with the Jerusalem Magen David Adom, a branch of Israel's emergency medical, ambulance, blood and disaster services.

The article, by Meghan Clyne, a Staff Reporter for the Sun, is as follows:

Entering where the international community fears to tread, the Greater New York chapter of the American Red Cross has signed a friendship pact with the Jerusalem Magen David Adom, Israel's Red Cross society. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies recognizes as full members 181 national Red Cross organizations—including those from Iran, Cuba and North Korea—but not Israel's.

On February 9, a delegation from the Jerusalem MDA—Magen David Adom means Red Star of David—is scheduled to visit New York as part of a continuing exchange between the societies, to learn from the work undertaken by the New York Red Cross, according to officials from the New York chapter. In late November the New Yorkers journeyed to Israel, where they met with MDA officials in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and visited a settlement to observe how the MDA responds to, and prepares for, emergency situations. At the end of the trip, members of the New York and Jerusalem groups signed a memorandum of understanding making the cooperation official.

One of the benefits of that cooperation is increased training in responding to terrorist attacks, the CEO of the American Red Cross in Greater New York, Terry Bischoff, said.

"Certainly we believe that given issues Israel has unfortunately had to deal with around disasters and terrorism responses, there are things we can learn from them to enhance our response capability," she said. In exchange, Ms. Bischoff said, the Americans are more experienced in providing mental-health and other support services to victims of terrorist attacks and other disasters, an expertise the Israelis hoped to learn from in dealing with the aftermath of suicide bombings and other attacks.

The New York-Jerusalem cooperation "really builds on a 50-year history . . . the American Red Cross has always been supportive of bringing the MDA into the Red Cross movement," Ms. Bischoff said. While the MDA is not an official voting member of the international federation, Israel's national Red Cross organization enjoys bilateral friendship agreements with several other countries, including France and Bulgaria in addition to America. Ms. Bischoff said those agreements—and greater working relationships between the MDA and other nations' Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations—are helpful to the cause of getting Israel fully recognized by the international Red Cross apparatus.

For its part, Ms. Bischoff added, the American Red Cross signed a friendship agreement with the MDA in 2002 and has withheld \$25 million in dues from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

societies since 2000. It has continued, however, to make contributions to the field work of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The director of the international department of Magen David Adom, Yonatan Yagodovsky, said he did not see the lack of formal international recognition as a major stumbling block to the MDA's work. "This is a political obstacle that will be overcome," Mr. Yagodovsky said.

He said that while the MDA still hopes to receive official recognition, "there aren't any clouds above the relationship between Magen David Adom and the international movement." Mr. Yagodovsky cited the MDA's recent tsunami-relief work alongside other Red Cross societies as an example.

Magen David Adom was established in 1930 and was denied admission to the international Red Cross community by one vote in 1949, a year after Israel declared statehood.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in recognizing the American Red Cross in Greater New York for its forward-thinking agreement with Jerusalem Magen David Adom. It is my hope that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will soon join its New York chapter and officially recognize Magen David Adom as a full member of the organization.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK GOMEZ

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a very special young man, Mark Gomez, who recently passed away at age 18. Mark and his parents, Mona and Rudy Gomez, impacted my life very deeply along with many of my staff. Mark was a quietly determined young man who never let his devastating diagnosis of Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy interfere with his desire to attend school or excel in his classes. Neither did his parents, Mona and Rudy.

When he could not attend public school on his own, they adjusted their work schedules (as U.S. Postal Service employees) so that one of them, usually Rudy, could serve as his attendant. Just as remarkably, Mark loved trains. He rode them and drew beautifully detailed pictures of them. One of his pictures hangs in the Santa Barbara Amtrak Station. Just last year, he fulfilled his longtime dream of circumnavigating the United States by train.

I first met the Gomez family when Mark enrolled in kindergarten at Peabody Charter School in Santa Barbara. I was the school nurse. From the first, making it through the day was a challenge. As his muscles grew weaker and his dependence became more acute, his determination seemed to grow. His parents hosted a fundraiser for the Duchenne Parent Project and family and friends came from far and wide.

When I first ran for public office, Mark, Rudy and Mona were super volunteers. We are among those who mourn his passing and are touched by his legacy. So are students, family and staff at Peabody Charter, La Colina Jr. High and Dos Pueblos High School where Mark had just begun his senior year.

Mark's steady determination and positive outlook on life, despite his challenges, reminds all of us to be strong in the face of adversity. His spirit and passion live on through his artwork, and his enthusiasm for life will always be remembered. I pledge to Mark's parents to dedicate my efforts to combat Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy to the memory of their son.

TRIBUTE TO KATHLEEN DOYLE

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kathleen Doyle of Petaluma, California, who is retiring from a long and illustrious career as a small business owner and community advocate. Kathleen and Maggie, her 13-year-old pet schnauzer, will soon be moving to a new home in Arlington, South Dakota to live closer to her immediate family.

A professional CPA, Kathleen leaves behind the accounting firm she established as well as many friends and associates who will miss her expertise, civic experience, and companionship. She has just completed a decade on the Santa Rosa Junior College Board of Trustees where she was relied upon for tracking the budget for other Board members.

An active participant in the fabric of Petaluma's civic life, Kathleen was a founding member of the Petaluma Woman's Club II and served on the Petaluma Chamber of Commerce Board (as President), the Sonoma County Civil Service Commission, the Petaluma Planning Commission, The Petaluma chapter of the Business and Professional Women's Club (as President), and the Petaluma Valley Hospital Foundation. She was also treasurer for the Woolsey For Congress campaign.

Kathleen's new home in a town of 900 will be near her two sisters and their families. She also plans to spend time traveling, perhaps to escape the below-zero temperatures of the Arlington winters.

Mr. Speaker, Kathleen Doyle has been an inspiration to many in the Petaluma community. It is hard to imagine the city without her. However, we know that Petaluma's loss will be Arlington's gain. Good luck to Kathleen in her new life.

COMMENDING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, as we convene for the beginning of the 109th Congress, one of our first acts is the commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. We remember the heroic forces that brought an end to the brutal atrocities against mankind, and we necessarily remember the death camp itself, the immoral center of last century's greatest genocide.

We understand better today than we did then that the purpose of genocide, racism, of anti-Semitism, is the degradation of the spirit of the victims and their kind. It is the malice of group hatred that reigned at Auschwitz. Consequently, our moral necessity today is to leave bigotry without any safe ground to stand upon. A false understanding of our liberal values sometimes leads us to refrain from attacks on intolerance—the harder truth is that we should put our liberal values in fierce competition with religious and ethnic hatred, and deploy those values to counter the demonizing of race and sects that still goes on.

Freedom is a worldwide value worth defending and expanding. To be won, that struggle too must be informed by remembrance: Freedom fares very well in the tolerant places in the human condition and never lasts long in the bigoted, hateful, mean spirited places.

Mr. Speaker that is one reason we pass this resolution today—to link our current struggles to our past ones.

Never Again, Never Forget

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, I was unable to be present during consideration of H.R. 54, to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide reasonable standards for congressional gold medals. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the Crowley amendment No. 2 (rollcall 10); "no" on the Crowley amendment No. 3 (rollcall 11); "nay" on the Motion to Recommit with Instructions (rollcall 12); and "aye" on passage of H.R. 54 (rollcall 13).

RECOGNIZING RONNIE GAGE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to recognize Ronnie Gage for his commitment to the people and City of Lewisville, Texas. Mr. Gage, Director of Athletics for Lewisville Independent School District, was recently selected as "Citizen of the Year."

The honor and dedication of Mr. Gage to his community should serve as an example to us all. His service extends from aiding and guiding students in their pursuit of higher education, to overseeing a "Fill-the-Helmet" fund-raising drive for an injured player. Mr. Gage's efforts to promote Lewisville continue today as he serves as President of the Texas High School Coaches Association. His talents are now recognized around the state.

Coach Gage chooses not only to involve himself in his community, but also to recruit others to be involved. His effort to help those who need it most grew out of his philanthropic life through organizations such as Christian Community Action and the YMCA. For thirteen wonderful years, Mr. Gage has honored the City of Lewisville with his care and devotion.

He has touched the lives of so many, and we are truly thankful.

It is the servant leadership of Mr. Gage, and those like him, which truly makes our Nation great. Once again, Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Lewisville's "Citizen of the Year" Mr. Ronnie Gage.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VILLAGE OF BROWN DEER, WI

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Village of Brown Deer, WI. It gives me great pleasure to join Brown Deer in celebrating this historic occasion.

Brown Deer was not incorporated into a village until January 20, 1955. However, its history began much earlier in 1835, when Irish and German migrants from the eastern United States settled in the Brown Deer-Granville area in search of farm lands. A few men from Granville, New York gave the township its name, which means "large city." In 1841, the original towns of Lake and Milwaukee were parceled out into seven townships of roughly 36 square miles apiece. The township of Granville was positioned in the northwest corner of Milwaukee County. It was in the northeast corner of this township where a small community referred to by residents as Brown Deer developed.

With a population of about 225, the first town meeting took place in 1842. The early 1900s showed moderate population growth in the Brown Deer area, but it was not until September 1953 that the process of incorporating Brown Deer into a village began. On November 3, 1953, incorporators applied for an order incorporating the Village with the Circuit Court of Milwaukee County. Following a hearing and a subsequent trial, the people of Brown Deer voted overwhelmingly at a referendum ordered by the Circuit Court in favor of incorporation, thereby officially creating the Village of Brown Deer and making it a municipal corporation on January 20, 1955.

Its humble beginnings helped make Brown Deer the Village it is today. I congratulate the Village of Brown Deer on its incorporation, and wish the residents of the Village of Brown Deer a very happy 50th Anniversary.

IN HONOR OF PAUL BODEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, as Paul Boden prepares to step down as Executive Director of the San Francisco Coalition on Homelessness, I would like to thank him for his service to San Francisco's homeless and mentally ill. Paul has been a tireless and thoughtful advocate, ensuring that city, State and national policies on homelessness reflect the diverse needs of our population.

In 1987, Paul founded the Coalition on Homelessness as an organization run by and

for the homeless. By hiring homeless and formerly homeless people, the Coalition both ensured homeless people had a voice in setting policies and empowered them with skills they could use to help others.

The Coalition's accomplishments include the creation of the Community Housing Partnership, the Treatment on Demand Program, the Shelter Grievance Project, and the Continuum of Care Plan. In addition, the Coalition created The Street Sheet, a community newspaper highlighting the work of homeless and formerly homeless people through writing, artwork, and poetry.

In addition to his work at the Coalition, Paul helped strengthen many community organizations by serving as a board member at the Community Housing Partnership, the Central City Hospitality House, and the National Coalition on Homelessness. With the National Coalition on Homelessness, he helped draft the Bringing America Home Act, which was introduced in the 108th Congress and aims to end homelessness in the United States.

As he departs the Coalition on Homelessness, Paul is expanding his focus to the national policy debate on homelessness. We will miss his leadership greatly at the Coalition, but it is heartening to know that the network of homeless people, service providers, and advocates he built will continue to act as a voice of conscience for the City of San Francisco. And I am certain that he will continue to make enormous contributions to lifting the lives of the homeless.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FAMILY
AND MEDICAL LEAVE INCLUSION
ACT AND THE FAMILY AND MEDICAL
LEAVE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, February marks the twelfth anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act. The Family and Medical Leave Act (PL 103-3), allows employees to take time off from work to care for a new baby or sick family member. It has allowed more than 35 million Americans to be able to take unpaid leave without the risk of losing their jobs in its twelve years since becoming law. Today, I am introducing two pieces of legislation that will expand the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA).

Imagine if your adult child, your parent-in-law, domestic partner or grandparent was involved in a serious car accident and had no one to take care of him or her. Then imagine your employer telling you that you can't take a few days off work to care for your loved one because you are not covered by FMLA. This situation sounds preposterous, but there is no protection for you in current law. That is why I am introducing the FMLA Inclusion and the FMLA Enhancement Acts.

The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act (H.R. 1430 in the 108th Congress) amends the FMLA to permit leave to care for a domestic partner, same-sex spouse, parent-in-law, adult child, sibling, or grandparent if that person has a serious health condition. Currently, the FMLA allows qualified workers to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for

newborns, seek emergency medical care for himself/herself, parents, children under 18 or a legal spouse.

The Family and Medical Leave Enhancement Act (H.R. 956 in the 108th Congress). Building on the success of the FMLA, this legislation would allow more people to benefit from Family and Medical Leave by allowing employees in companies with more than 25 employees to take Family and Medical Leave and would extend employee leave for workers to go to parent-teacher conferences or to take their children, grandchildren or other family members to the doctor for regular medical appointments.

MR. AMADOR CALLEROS—
LIFETIME OF ACHIEVEMENT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. I want to recognize and congratulate one of my most distinguished constituents from the 39th Congressional District, Mr. Amador "Cal" Calleros. I commend him for his invaluable contribution to his family, to his company—Southern California Gas, to the Whittier community, and to the Los Angeles area. On January 15, 2005, Mr. Calleros retired from the Southern California Gas Company after 34 years of outstanding service.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Mr. Calleros grew up as the oldest of three children, providing a shining example to his sisters. His father Sirilo, who was born in Springfield, IL, and his mother Helen, who was born in Riverside, CA, met in Los Angeles. Mr. Calleros, who was raised by his hard-working father and loving mother, also spent time with his grandmother Maria and his step grandfather Prieto.

In 1965, Mr. Calleros graduated from Montebello High School, where he excelled as the star catcher on the baseball team. After high school, Mr. Calleros attended Los Angeles Trade Tech for a short time before he decided to enlist in the military, where he pursued a special interest in the communications branch of the Army. The war in Vietnam was escalating and Mr. Calleros wanted to serve his country. He was stationed in Strasbourg, Germany, for 2 years from 1966 to 1968, where he awaited the call to the Far East. Though he never was asked to serve in Vietnam, Mr. Calleros suffered the loss of countless friends from East Los Angeles who were killed in the Vietnam War. Upon his return, Mr. Calleros helped bring comfort to these families during their time of grief.

In 1970, which proved to be a milestone year for Mr. Calleros, he met and married his wife, Esther, and began his career at the Southern California Gas Company. In 1972, Amador and Esther moved from Monterey Park to Whittier, and still live in the same house. Amador has been a devoted husband to Esther, a supportive father of two sons, and a loving grandfather of one. Though committed to his work, he has always put family first, and this commitment has helped to create a strong family and nurtured immediate and extended family members.

Having lived in Whittier for over 30 years, Mr. Calleros has volunteered his time at Lambert Little League, Gunn Park (now called Adventure Park), California High School, and St. Gregory the Great Parish. His greatest passion is coaching baseball. Through coaching, Mr. Calleros has provided instruction, mentoring, and guidance to hundreds, if not thousands of youth from Whittier, La Mirada, and other surrounding areas of the 39th Congressional District.

Professionally, Mr. Calleros distinguished himself within the Southern California Gas Company. He began his career as a field technician with his shiny, white Gas Company pick-up truck. Having excelled as a technician, he moved on to become a meter-reader, a field service representative, a measurement analyst, and eventually a measurement technologies expert. The latter two jobs were completed as a member of the management team. It was rare for someone who started out in meter reading to ascend to management, but Mr. Calleros did, paving the way for others to do the same. He continually gave his coworkers inspiration and valuable leadership, which enabled them to succeed.

Mr. Calleros has generously offered support to his family, his baseball players, his neighbors, his colleagues, and his friends. He has dedicated his entire professional career to one organization to which he remained loyal. I am pleased to commend and thank him for his excellent work and look forward to many more years of his service to the community.

CONGRATULATING THE IRAQI PEOPLE ON AN HISTORIC ELECTION

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the people of Iraq for going to the polls this weekend to participate in their first free elections in over 50 years. In many cases, Iraqis defied death threats to take another significant step toward rebuilding their country and reconstituting a society built on democracy. The huge number of people who voted is clear evidence of the historic transformation ongoing in Iraq. Their actions serve as a signal to the United States and to the world that Iraqis are anxious to embrace freedom.

As independent accounts have verified, the turnout for Iraq's elections surpassed all expectations. But let it not be called a surprise, Mr. Speaker, that the people of this country, no longer living under a cloud of fear, are eager to freely elect a leader to lead a free Iraq.

As President Bush has said, it was the Iraqi people who made this election a resounding success. But it also bears mentioning that these elections would not have been possible without the leadership of President Bush. It also bears mentioning that these elections would not have occurred had it not been for the will of enlightened countries that allied with us in our war on terrorism. From the first day of the invasion, through the toppling of a tyrant, to today, these countries stand firm in their commitment to fight terrorism.

I commend the Iraqi people for their strength and willingness to embrace freedom.

I know many have died in making this day possible and we mourn those we have lost. Though this election is just one step, it is representative of the Iraqi commitment to a brighter future, a future that I believe, Mr. Speaker, is based on peace and freedom.

COMMENDING COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS FOR MARKING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, on this tragic anniversary, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 39, which commends countries and organizations for marking the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration Camp at Auschwitz.

On January 27, 1945, the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz, including Birkenau and other related camps near the Polish city of Oswiecim, was liberated by elements of the Soviet Army. According to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, at a minimum, 1,300,000 people were deported to Auschwitz between 1940 and 1945, and at least 1,100,000 were murdered at that camp. That fateful day marked the end of the horror at Auschwitz.

In total, an estimated 6,000,000 Jews, more than 60 percent of the pre-World War II Jewish population of Europe, were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators at Auschwitz and elsewhere in Europe. Also, hundreds of thousands of civilians from many nationalities, all of whom the Nazis considered "undesirable," perished at Auschwitz and other concentration camps throughout Europe.

It is important that the United Nations General Assembly, in response to a resolution proposed by Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Russia, the United States, and the European Union, recently convened its first-ever special session marking the liberation of Auschwitz and other concentration camps. Several countries around the globe are taking part in remembrance ceremonies and honoring the victims of Auschwitz and the Holocaust. We must never forget the tragic events that led up to the Holocaust and we must urge all countries and all peoples to strengthen their efforts to fight against racism, anti-Semitism and intolerance around the globe. If we do not remain committed to teaching the lessons of the Holocaust for future generations, then history will be doomed to repeat itself.

CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN MEDICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION ON THEIR 90TH BIRTHDAY—THE VISION AND VOICE OF WOMEN IN MEDICINE

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest congratulations to

the American Medical Women's Association, AMWA, on the occasion of its 90th birthday year celebration.

Throughout this century, AMWA has been indefatigable in its efforts to advance women in medicine and to promote women's health. As the leading multidisciplinary association of women in medicine in our country, AMWA has encouraged and honored excellence in the fields of medicine, healthcare and science through a wide array of scholarships, grants, and awards, as well as diverse educational programs for physicians, medical students and the general public.

AMWA's Local Legends program is a partnership with the National Institutes of Health's National Library of Medicine and the NIH Office of Women's Health Research. This past year, I was fortunate enough to nominate Dr. Marian E. Melish and Dr. Cynthia Goto, two outstanding physicians from the state of Hawaii. Dr. Melish is a Professor of Pediatrics, Tropical Medicine and Medical Microbiology at the John A Burns School of Medicine of the University of Hawaii. She is also Chief of the Infectious Disease Division of the Department of Pediatrics and Medical Director of Infection Control at the Kapiolani Medical Center. Dr. Goto is a second generation OB-GYN practitioner. Her father, Dr. George Goto, was the champion of women's reproductive rights in the nation and in Hawaii in the 1960s. Dr. Cynthia Goto continues that tradition through her work to connect Hawaii's public health services with clinical care for women and infants. Her efforts have resulted in an ongoing collaboration between Hawaii's OB-GYNs, the Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition and the March of Dimes.

AMWA has distinguished itself through support of numerous charitable programs, particularly focusing on the needs of disproportionately disadvantaged women and their families. For 75 years, AMWA's American Women's Hospitals Service, AWHS, clinics in the U.S. and abroad have provided desperately needed care to the medically underserved. In addition, hundreds of medical students and residents have received remarkable healthcare training in these and other remote clinics worldwide through AMWA's AWHS travel stipends.

AMWA's advocacy on behalf of women's health and research, especially bringing underaddressed concerns to the national agenda, has made AMWA a leading voice for the care of women and their children. Again, I wish to commend and congratulate AMWA for making a positive and enduring contribution to the healthcare of the communities and our country.

GLEN PARK ELEMENTARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Glen Park Elementary, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for its recognition as a 2003-2004 Blue Ribbon School.

I congratulate Glen Park Elementary, under the leadership of Principal Dr. Cassandra Morris-Surles, for this outstanding achievement. Glen Park Elementary is only one, of fifteen,

Texas schools, and 250 schools nationwide, honored as a "No Child Left Behind" Blue Ribbon School.

No Child Left Behind is the landmark education reform law designed to change the culture of America's schools by closing the achievement gap, offering more flexibility, giving parents more options and teaching students based on what works. Foremost among the four key principles is an insistence on stronger accountability for results.

As we work to improve our education system, it is important that we have accurate information about the performance of our schools and our ability to teach our students. With that information, we need to praise these schools, teachers and administrations which meet the high standards of "No Child Left Behind."

Glen Park Elementary is a stellar example for Texas school and is a strong example for all American schools. Glen Park has high scholastics marks and continues to be a premier school in our community.

I am proud of the education system in Texas; especially our involved parents and teachers at Glen Park Elementary who commit their lives and time to fostering growth in their students. Congratulations to the student, parents, teachers and administration at Glen Park Elementary.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, January 25, I was unable to be present during consideration of H. Con. Res. 16, Congratulating the people of the Ukraine and Victor Yushchenko on his election as President of Ukraine and his commitment to democracy and reform (rollcall 8); and H. Res. 39, Commending Countries and Organizations for Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz and Urging a Strengthening of the Fight Against Racism, Intolerance, Bigotry, Prejudice, Discrimination and Anti-Semitism (rollcall 9). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

ARTICLE ABOUT THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE ROBERT T. MATSUI

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call the attention of the House to a wonderfully written column by Norman Ornstein about the memory of our colleague, the Honorable Robert T. Matsui, who passed away on January 1. Mr. Ornstein's column, published in the January 26 edition of Roll Call, captured the very essence of Bob's spirit and reminded us why we all will miss him so much—because he was an "all-around great guy" whose warmth, wit and bipartisanship will live on and inspire future leaders in this chamber to serve with the same kind of grace and style that Bob possessed in spades.

[From Roll Call, Jan. 26, 2005]

BOB MATSUI: WONK, FIGHTER, AND ALL-AROUND GREAT GUY

(By Norman Ornstein)

Some years ago, I had the good fortune (or misfortune) of appearing on the cover of a now-defunct glossy magazine called Washington Dossier, wearing a fancy tuxedo while dancing with an elegant model (who was about 6 inches taller than me).

A couple of weeks later, I got a call from the office of Rep. Bob Matsui (D-Calif.) asking me to come by for a meeting on some issue he was dealing with on the Ways and Means Committee. I dutifully showed up, to find that it was a pretext for Bob to give me a nicely framed picture with the Dossier cover and the inside picture.

I treasure that picture—but I treasure even more the photograph I received later. It was taken by one of Bob's staffers, showing Matsui giving me the gift, beaming about the surprise he'd managed to pull off.

That was vintage Bob Matsui: a delight in surprising one of his friends, a warmth and goodness that is rare in any group of people but even rarer at the top reaches of rough-and-tumble politics. Weeks after the fact, I am still having trouble coming to grips with the reality that he is gone.

I first met Bob and his wife, Doris, soon after he was elected to the House in 1978. Bob drew people to him because he was so warm, open, unpretentious and bright. I shared with him a love of baseball and of politics. He and Doris and my wife and I became good friends, sharing news of our kids growing up, dissecting current events, talking about the Orioles and sometimes going to games.

Unlike many people in elite levels of politics, television, law or business, Bob was not self-absorbed. The line, "But enough about me. What do you think of me?" applies: to many (as each of us could name) but it did not apply to him. He was genuinely interested in others, and took genuine delight in their achievements.

Through the years, I watched Bob up close as his career in Congress soared. He first shot to national prominence when he led the effort to get reparations for the Japanese-Americans who had been forced into internment camps during World War II. Of course, he had been among them, spending the first few years of his life in such a camp. He and his House colleague Norm Mineta (D-Calif.) handled that issue with determination and drive—but without bitterness or recrimination. The process became a template for reconciliation. It also showed Bob as a proud American, not cynical or bitter but simply wanting to see his country make amends for a huge mistake.

That alone would have made a terrific career. But Bob made his mark in so many more areas. In trade, he was a model bipartisan, willing often to take on his own party as he fought for the free-trade ideals he believed in, looking to find common ground with allies such as Reps. Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.) and David Dreier (R-Calif.), and looking as well to find common ground on issues such as labor and environmental standards as a way of broadening the free-trade coalition. (He was disappointed to find that the current House was not interested in broadening coalitions beyond the majority of the majority party.)

Bob became a world-class expert on welfare and Social Security. He was a policy wonk who loved politics, a gentle man who had a fierce attachment to his values and policy views, a partisan who also wanted to work with those across the aisle, and a man who could use ferocious rhetoric to defend the downtrodden but who seemed to have no enemies, even among those he excoriated.

I have had the privilege of having many members of the House and Senate as friends, spanning both parties and all viewpoints. They have included many currently serving or recently retired, along with such now-deceased leaders as Speaker Tip O'Neill (D-Mass.) and House Minority Leader John Rhodes (R-Ariz.), and superstars of public service like Rep. Barber Conable (R-N.Y.) and Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.).

I think what all my friends in Congress have shared is their love and respect for the institution, their joy of serving, and their delight in politics. That was true, in spades, of Bob. He embodied all that is right about politics and the legislative process, all that is great about America. As partisan as he grew in the ever-more-partisan House, he refused to divide the world into friends and enemies. He carried himself with class. His dismay with the House led him to take the brutal job as chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which he did dutifully and well over the past two years, without any of the sleaze now so common in elections.

During the beautiful memorial service for him in Statuary Hall, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.) provided the take-home phrase: She hoped that during the coming years, as we face nasty and brutish partisan politics and debate, that we could pause from time to time for a "Matsui Moment."

Everybody in the hall understood what she meant, including Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), who had the class to allow the memorial service to be held in that hallowed and rarely used space. Despite the tension of recent years, the Speaker noted that Bob Matsui never failed to come across the aisle to say hello to him, to be pleasant and forthcoming. I hope he, and his colleagues, will remember the idea of the Matsui Moment and apply it. God knows such moments have been in short supply.

Bob knew about his disease for some months. He and Doris decided that he was not going to change his life or curb his energy in face of it. Rather, he was going to carry on with what he believed in and what he was dedicated to do. That included finishing his responsibilities with the DCCC and preparing for his crucial role as point man for the Democrats on Social Security. Up to the last, he followed what was going on in the world and worked on a strategy for Social Security.

My family and I got back from our holiday late on the evening of Jan. 1. I opened the mail, and went right for the famous Matsui Christmas card, which was especially delightful this year, with its gorgeous pictures showcasing Bob and Doris' beautiful pride and joy, granddaughter Anna. The next morning, I checked my e-mail and saw the news about his death—and literally fell off my chair.

I am glad that Bob will be replaced by Doris, who, like Lindy Boggs, will come to Congress as a remarkable talent from day one. But I miss my friend and miss even more what he brought to politics, to Congress and to America.

DEFENDING CIVIL LIBERTIES

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 31st, 2005, I held a town meeting at the Vermont Law School on the state of civil liberties in America. Joining me at the meeting

were Professor Cheryl Hanna of Vermont Law School; Professor Stephen Dycus of Vermont Law School; Trina Magi, Past President of the Vermont Library Association; and Ben Scotch, the Former Executive Director of the Vermont American Civil Liberties Union. Well over 200 people participated in the meeting.

Mr. Speaker, in the United States today there is a great concern about terrorism. Our country suffered a horrendous tragedy on September 11th, 2001—and there is no doubt in my mind that there are people on this earth who would like to attack us again.

Is terrorism a serious problem? The answer is “Yes, it is.” Should the United States and the rest of the world do all that we can to protect innocent people from terrorist attacks? The answer, once again in my view, is “Yes, we should.”

But the question that we are struggling with in Congress and throughout our country is: “Do we have to sacrifice our basic liberties and constitutional rights in order to protect ourselves from the threat of global terrorism?” And in my view, the answer to that question must be a resounding “No.”

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit an article that ran in the Rutland Herald on Tuesday, February 1, 2005, about this town meeting.

PANEL DISCUSSES CIVIL LIBERTIES

ROYALTON.—Big Brother might not be watching just yet, but many believe George Orwell's nightmare is becoming more plausible by the day.

“We need to be aware that a cancer is threatening our basic civil liberties, our constitutional rights and our privacy rights,” Rep. Bernard Sanders, I-Vt., said Monday night to a crowd of more than 200 people at Vermont Law School.

The audience filled the Jonathan B. Chase Community Center for the panel discussion on civil liberties and national security with Sanders, VLS professors Stephen Dycus and Cheryl Hanna, former Vermont Library Association president Trina Magi and former Vermont American Civil Liberties Union president Ben Scotch.

Much of the discussion centered on the USA Patriot Act, passed in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001.

Sanders said the issue alone was not just the Patriot Act, which broadened the powers of law enforcement and the federal government, but also how those who want to keep track of people are gaining more ways of doing so.

Sanders said there was an effort in Congress last year to require trackable computer chips in all drivers' licenses.

“Someone with the right kind of device could track your every movement,” he said. “George Orwell, here we are. In a few short years, unless we change it, every single thing we do, every place we go, every person we meet could be recorded in a database.”

Hanna said the provisions of the Patriot Act that civil libertarians find most troublesome and unconstitutional have been difficult to challenge in court because of the secrecy with which the law allows the government to operate.

“In order to challenge something, you have to have a case,” she said. “You need someone who has been harmed. With the Patriot Act, so much of the harm has been clandestine. You might not even know if you were the target of an investigation.”

Scotch argued that the real dangers of the Patriot Act were its vagaries and the ways in which it challenged established legal language.

Scotch presented provisions of a bill he called “The Free Speech Enhancement Act

of 2005,” that would outlaw several forms of speaking out against the government during wartime. He then revealed that the law had been passed, under another name in 1918 and had since been repealed.

“Bills that restrict freedom are more and more subtle and more and more clever,” he said. “That's what we're seeing in the USA Patriot Act. When the Sedition Act of 1918 says we're going to ban disloyal speech, it comes out and says it.”

Magi said she was worried that the provisions allowing investigators to look at the records of any business, including libraries, without a warrant would destroy the effectiveness of libraries.

“As an academic librarian, it is my job to help students really dig deeper,” she said. “In order to do that, students must feel that the library is a safe place to seek information.”

Dycus challenged the notion that “normal Americans” who are not terrorists don't need to fear the Patriot Act.

“It would be a terrible mistake to believe none of this concerns you,” he said. “You might be right to think that you will never be taken away in the night and detained in a military brig . . . but you shouldn't be so sure. Besides, what our government does with our knowledge it also does in our name.”

The floor was opened to questions from the audience, which ranged from angry rants against the Bush administration to questions about what can be done.

One student challenged the one-sidedness of the discussion.

“I was a little surprised the Vermont Law School would have only one side presented,” she said. “I would think they would want both sides presented so we, as law students, could learn.”

Sanders said the make-up of the panel was his doing and not the school's.

The student went on to challenge some of the assertions about the Patriot Act, saying her understanding was the “sneak and peek” provisions merely expanded capabilities that law enforcement already had.

Scotch replied that the earlier law on which those provisions were based included a requirement similar to probable cause, but the Patriot Act does not.

One man asked how to best strike a balance between preserving civil liberties and vigilance against terrorist threats. Magi said it was something people would have to decide for themselves.

“I think it's really legitimate to be afraid of terrorists,” she said. “We can also be afraid of an overreaching government that stretches too far into our lives. There are plenty of examples of lives that were ruined by a government that was not restrained.”

Sanders said there was more to the issue than a simple tradeoff and that reductions in privacy don't necessarily lead to increases in security.

Sanders cited the deportation of people advocating trade unions in the 1920s, the internment of Japanese citizens during World War II, the McCarthyism of the 1950s and government surveillance during the 1960s as examples of how the government can be just as much of a threat to the people as those from whom it is supposed to protect them.

“We have got to be vigilant,” he said.

Sanders said people need to put as much effort into defending their civil liberties as the Republican Party leadership has put into promoting the policies of the Bush Administration.

“Tom Delay works day and night, fighting for what he believes in,” he said. “You have to begin to think about changing the political culture. All of us are going to have to roll up our sleeves and talk to our neighbors.”

The key, Sanders said, lies not in just organizing liberals, but reaching out to conservatives.

“It is not moderate Republicans, it is conservative Republicans, people who love their guns and don't want their guns taken away, who are going to join you,” he said. “Do you talk to them and or just think they're jerks who aren't as bright as you? Well, that's what they think about you.”

Sanders said nobody on the left has the luxury of being depressed or defeatist.

“On issues like this, I believe that once people hear the issues, they understand we can deal with terrorism without the provisions of the Patriot Act,” he said.

IN HONOR OF MR. JOHN FREITAS

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. John L. Freitas, who is retiring after 18 years as Executive Director of the Carmel Foundation in Carmel, California. The Carmel Foundation was established in 1950 with the purpose of providing “. . . for the residence, health, care and good living and the welfare and well being of persons in and about Carmel who are advanced in years and not otherwise sufficiently cared for.”

Under John's direction, the foundation procured vehicles to provide the residents and members with the independence that mobility affords. Facilities were outfitted with fixtures and appliances designed for both able and disabled people. More than fifty classes and programs were made available to enrich the lives of the members. A new computer learning center was added and became so popular that one thousand members graduated from its classes in the first 5 years, proving John's faith in the interest and ability of these seniors to learn difficult new skills.

John Freitas' strong sense of community and fine balance with his board made it possible for the Carmel Foundation to continue to add enrichment programs. In-home supportive services, assistance with accounting, home safety checks, a weekend meal program, parties and potlucks are just a few of the elements that enhance their members' quality of life and ensure a loyal following. This loyalty flows over to the employees, who can see every day that what they do makes a tangible difference in the lives of all the people.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud John Freitas' many accomplishments, and commend him for the tremendous amount of personal time, thought, and dedication he put into this project. I join the Carmel community in honoring this truly remarkable man for all of his lifelong achievements.

THE RETIREMENT OF THOMAS N. CLARK

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Thomas Newton Clark, General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency. Tom has worked at the

Agency for over 20 years, and held the position of General Manager for the last 15. Throughout his career in the California water industry, Tom has shown vision and tenacity when tackling the challenges of competing water interests. He has long been recognized for his negotiating skills and ability to find a resolution acceptable to widely divergent points of view.

Tom is a second generation Californian and a lifelong resident of Bakersfield. He attended Standard Elementary, Standard Junior High, and North High School, graduating in 1963. After marrying Karen on June 19, 1966, Tom spent 2 years in the Army at Fort Irwin, California. After taking classes at Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield for 2 years, Tom then ventured across the country to complete his coursework at the University of Pittsburgh, earning his Master of Science in Water Supply—Water Pollution Control in 1974.

Tom moved back home to California, starting his long career in California water in 1974 with the Kern County Water Agency as a Water Resources Planner. After nearly 4 years with the Agency, Tom sought a new challenge as water manager for Nickel Enterprises and La Hacienda, Inc., where he was responsible for managing the water rights of this farming, commercial and residential water rights development firm. Tom returned to the Kern County Water Agency 8 years later as an Assistant Manager and was promoted to Assistant General Manager 3 years later. In 1990, Tom took on the mantle of General Manager, overseeing all operations of the Agency, including management of its allocated State Water Project water supplies.

Tom is well known for his visionary leadership in promoting the idea of water banking in and around Bakersfield and for his dedicated work to balance California's commercial, residential and agricultural water needs. Tom has always sought to educate water users in more urban areas of California about the importance of water for agriculture, given that the Central Valley is the most productive agricultural region in America. He was one of the lead players in developing the Bay-Delta Accord of 1994 and following that through to State and Federal authorization in subsequent years. In the 108th Congress, I worked with Tom and others at the Agency to ensure a Federal reauthorization of the California Bay-Delta Program, a program that seeks to provide a balance to competing water needs in California.

I wish Tom the best of luck in his retirement. While I understand he is retiring from his high-profile and high-pressure position, he will continue to be a voice and force in California water policy for many years to come.

Universal Forest Products, Inc. was incorporated on February 10, 1955, as a lumber wholesale office specializing in sales to the manufactured housing industry. William F. Grant was the major stockholder and sole salesman. When Mr. Grant decided in 1962 to grow his business, he hired a graduate of Michigan State University, Peter F. Secchia. Nine years later, when the company had sales of \$12 million, Secchia, today's company chairman, purchased control of Universal. A year later, he hired William G. Currie, today's CEO and vice-chairman. Together, they have led Universal through three decades of strong, steady growth and great success.

Today, Universal is a \$2.5 billion, publicly traded company, trading on the NASDAQ index as UFPI. The company is the leading supplier to the four strong markets it serves—do-it-yourself retail, suit-built construction, industrial and other packaging and components, and manufactured housing. Universal is the largest producer of pressure-treated lumber in the world, the largest producer of roof trusses for manufactured housing in North America, and the nation's largest residential truss manufacturer. Furthermore, it is a leading supplier of value-added products to the do-it-yourself market, maintaining this leadership role as a result of the company's commitment to manufacture, distribute, and market its own products.

Universal is an employer of choice, where more than 9,000 people work. In fact, among the senior ranks, the turnover has been virtually zero; most officers have been with the company for decades. The same is holding true for the new generation of leadership: They're joining the company and staying.

With 96 locations throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, Universal produces finished goods within the markets it serves, offering unparalleled distribution and service to its customers.

In 2004, *Forbes* once again named Universal to its "Platinum 400," an annual ranking of the 400 best performing companies in the U.S. with more than \$1 billion in revenue, and continues its climb up the *Fortune* 1000 list, up 35 places to No. 734 in the most-recent rankings. In addition, *Industry Week* magazine in August 2003 named Universal to its list of "Top 50 U.S. Manufacturers" and CNN's Money Gang show named Universal a "Stock Pick of the Day" in February 2004.

Universal is a great American business success story and it is my privilege to honor the company, its chairman, Peter Secchia, and its thousands of employees today in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congratulations on the occasion of Universal's 50th anniversary.

ure seeks to restrict the number of Congressional Gold Medals that can be awarded in a given year to two. It forbids the medal from being awarded concurrently to a group, as well as from being awarded posthumously—except during the 20-year period beginning 5 years after the death of the individual. This latter requirement regarding posthumous medals is perplexing and arbitrary at best, but it also exemplifies the faults of a most peculiar piece of legislation.

The first question that this proposed measure elicits is "Why." Since the American Revolution, Congress has awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as its highest expression of national appreciation to those who lived a life of great achievement. Why now does the majority see fit to restrict how the Congress honors the country's most deserving citizens? With a U.S. population that grows daily in number and diversity, reducing the amount of honors that Congress can award to that population is simply perplexing.

In the long history of the U.S. Congress, rarely has the Congressional Gold Medal been awarded to more than 2 people in a year. This is not due to a mandated limit, such as what the majority is now proposing, but rather due to the longstanding requirement that at least two-thirds of the House and Senate co-sponsor the resolution. This requirement has created a "natural" ceiling, as it necessitates that the potential recipient have the support of an overwhelming majority of Congress. As such, it renders the forced limit that H.R. 54 proposes, needless.

In the rare instances that awardees for the Congressional Gold Medal have exceeded more than two in a year, the cohort included some of the most deserving individuals of which I can think. Presidents Harry Truman and Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II, Nelson Mandela, and Mother Teresa all received their medals in years when more than two were awarded. Competition in those years was particularly keen. If H.R. 54 had been in effect, some of these recipients may have been prevented from receiving the medal when they did.

Additionally, some of the most deserving individuals from America's minority communities would not have received medals at all under H.R. 54. The 'Little Rock Nine' and the Navajo Code Talkers would have both been precluded due to the measure's restriction on group medals. Interestingly, all three of the medal recipients from 2004—who all happened to be African American and major contributors to the civil rights movement—would have been precluded under H.R. 54 because their medals were awarded posthumously. The mere possibility of the aforementioned examples reveals the immense shortcomings of H.R. 54. Unfortunately, the measure passed in the House along partisan lines, and now resides in the Senate for consideration.

The great writer Thomas Carlyle once wrote, "Show me the man you honor, and I will know what kind of man you are." The Congressional Gold Medal is not a token gesture offered liberally. Rather, it is awarded to those whose life and deeds embody the ideals our Nation holds sacred. It is in effect an annual affirmation of our national values. H.R. 54 seeks to limit this process. As such, it is a measure I cannot support, and one this Congress can ill-afford to enact.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNIVERSAL FOREST PRODUCTS OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give recognition to a company located in my district, Universal Forest Products Inc., which clearly deserves its place under the heading of "American Success Stories."

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 54, CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise due to my continuing concern about the measure H.R. 54, which was passed by the Republican majority last week. In its present form the meas-

IN HONOR OF THE NEW EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Monterey County's new Emergency Services Center. This state-of-the-art essential services facility houses the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and Office of Emergency Services, as well as the consolidated 9-1-1 Dispatch Center, which serves public safety agencies and virtually all 420,000 residents of Monterey County. The need for this facility and its coordinated, integrated approach to emergency and communications services was starkly highlighted during the floods that devastated the county in 1995. Harry Robins, Emergency Services Manager, identified the necessary improvements in planning, budgeting, fiscal constraints, design, construction and installation of equipment, never wavering in his commitment to the vision of what this facility should be, and what it would mean to the people of Monterey County.

Joining the county mid-stream in this planning effort was Emergency Communications Director Lynn Diebold, who solidified community backing and obtained fiscal support from every city and public safety agency served by the unique thirty-year partnership known as "County Comm". The final piece of the support and funding puzzle was achieved when I was able to secure approval for a HUD technology grant of nearly one million dollars. This funding ensured that the facility would be properly equipped to handle the day-to-day calls for police, fire and emergency medical calls for service, as well as improved the county's ability to respond regionally, with all local and State agencies, during any wildland fire, flood, earthquake or man-made disaster. These Federal grant funds were used to purchase essential telecommunications equipment and planning expertise, critical to meeting the joint missions of Emergency Services and Emergency Communications.

The County Board of Supervisors, City Mayors and Councils, Fire District Boards and public safety organizations throughout the county are justifiably proud of their partnership with each other and the Federal government on this important regional project. Board of Supervisors Chair Lou Calcagno remarked at the official opening in August 2004, that he was "particularly pleased that in these challenging fiscal times, this facility was built on time, on budget and is 100 percent paid for." He added, "With no financing or bonds to pay off, this project is a testament to the good planning and hard work of county staff and the support and financial participation of our partner cities and Federal government". City of Monterey Mayor, Dan Albert, who serves as the Chair of the Emergency Communications Policy Advisory Council, acknowledged the dedication and hard work of the 911 dispatchers and staff who handle over 600,000 911 and non-emergency telephone calls and more than 500,000 dispatch incidents annually.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to be able to do my part in helping secure funding for this

project. I join my colleagues in celebrating the opening of this building that has so many significant benefits to the county, and in thanking all those who work here for their commitment to the welfare of their fellow citizens.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CALIFORNIA LEAGUE OF FOOD PROCESSORS

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the California League of Food Processors, CLFP, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

For those who are not familiar with the CLFP, it was founded in 1905 in San Francisco and was originally known as the Canners League of California. Its mission then was to represent the canners of California fruits and vegetables. Since then, its membership, and its mission, has expanded to include not only canners but also freezers, dryers, and dehydrators; its membership contains familiar names such as Bell-Carter, Campbell Soup, Del Monte, H.J. Heinz, Kraft, Rio Bravo, Sun-Maid, and Sunsweet.

These companies, along with the other members of the CLFP, play a crucial role in California's \$27 billion agriculture industry. In a typical year, CLFP members can, freeze, or dry 11 million tons of tomatoes, 500,000 tons of peaches, 120,000 tons of olives, and millions of tons of other fruits and vegetables such as garlic, prunes, and strawberries.

For the past 100 years, the CLFP has worked to ensure that the food grown and processed in California is of the highest quality. In the process, the CLFP and its Members have encouraged the growth of the California fruit and vegetable industry by being a leader in the development of technological innovations that have helped the industry achieve advances in fruit and vegetable varieties, harvesting automation, processing mechanization, food packaging, and distribution systems. Accordingly, I trust that my colleagues will join me in congratulating the CLFP on their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING GARY SCHMIDT AND OTHER WINNERS OF THE 2005 NEWBERY AND PRINTZ BOOK AWARDS

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer congratulations and recognition to Prof. Gary Schmidt for having his book for young adults, "Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy," recognized as a 2005 John Newbery Honor Book and as a 2005 Michael L. Printz Honor Book.

Professor Schmidt, a member of the English Department faculty at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in my district, took 3 years to write "Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy," which he based on a tragic 1912 inci-

dent—the eradication of a small African-American community from a Maine island by townspeople from the nearby community of Phippsburg, Maine. The story follows the friendship between two teenagers—Lizzie Bright Turner, an African-American resident of the island of Malaga, and Turner Buckminster, the son of Phippsburg's newly arrived minister.

In making the award, Newbery Award Committee chair Susan Faust said Professor Schmidt's book is "[s]teeped in imagery and laced with surprising humor," and that it "... explores powerlessness, possibility and the profound impact individuals can make." "We spent a year studying the universe of eligible books, and it is a thrill to name this as one of our honor books," Faust said.

Despite his success as an author, Professor Schmidt continues his work as an educator. In fact, he found out about his honors while leading a group of students on a 3-week study trip in Massachusetts and, after dealing with the requisite media interviews, celebrated with his students.

"It's a tremendous honor in a year when the books are strong and wonderful," Schmidt said. "The (book) is very close to my heart."

Mr. Speaker, this is a book that we can recommend to all young people, with a wonderful theme of young people learning to make important decisions. It is a story that illuminates that important transition from childhood to adulthood.

I hope all my colleagues will join me in congratulating Prof. Gary Schmidt and his fellow honorees: 2005 Newbery Medal winner Cynthia Kadohata for her book, "Kira-Kira," and fellow Newbery Honor Book recipients Gennifer Choldenko ("Al Capone Does My Shirts") and Russell Freedman ("The Voice that Challenged a Nation"), as well as 2005 Printz Award winner Meg Rosoff for her book, "how i live now" and fellow Printz Honor Book recipients Kenneth Oppel ("Airborn") and Allan Stratton ("Chanda's Secrets").

HONORING SHIRLEY CHISHOLM AND JAMES FORMAN

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, as we begin the country's annual celebration of Black History Month, I find it appropriate to reflect on the lives of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman, who both passed away in the last month. Both of them were critical figures in the ongoing endeavor to ensure equal rights and opportunity for all Americans. On a personal level, their life stories are case studies in the power of courage to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles.

In recollecting the life of Shirley Chisholm, the words fighter and pioneer come to mind. The child of Caribbean immigrants, she would challenge the Democratic machine in Brooklyn, and an all-male field of candidates, to become the first African American woman elected to Congress. Along the way, she used the slogan "unbought and unbossed" to affirm her determination to steer clear of party and gender nonns, and fight for what she believed.

During her seven terms in Congress, she would champion the rights and interests of

women, minorities, children, and the poor. Initially relegated to the Agriculture Committee, which had almost no relevance to her urban New York district, she would fight to get relevant committee assignments for both her and her Black Congressional colleagues. On the Education and Labor Committee she would support improved employment and education programs, expansion of day care, income support, and other programs to improve America's inner cities.

In 1972 she would challenge the status quo again, when she launched a bid to become the Democratic nominee for President. Though the party initially marginalized her, she persevered to the end, constantly reiterating her message of government's accountability to all Americans.

Her underdog effort inspired both Blacks and Whites around the country, and earned her the respect of her early critics. Shirley would go on to outlast better-known and better-funded primary contenders. At the 1972 Democratic National Convention in Miami, she would receive 151 delegate votes—far more than anyone could have imagined.

Though a fighter, even her opponents were astounded by her innate compassion and empathy. During her presidential bid, Chisholm went to the hospital to visit George Wallace, a political rival and ardent racial segregationist, after he had been shot in a failed assassination attempt.

Wallace was shocked by the Chisholm's gesture—one that was politically risky at best. It is said that Chisholm told Wallace, "I know what they're going to say. But I wouldn't want what happened to you to happen to anyone". Her words moved him to tears. Two years later when she needed support on legislation to extend the minimum wage to domestic workers, George Wallace would gather the Southern support it required.

In addition to Shirley Chisholm, the recent passing of James Forman represents a great loss to our country. Forman joined the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1961, and was elected its executive secretary one week later. He would soon play a central role in developing SNCC from a loose coalition of student protest groups, to one of the most prominent and effective organizations of the Civil Rights Movement.

Utilizing the discipline and organizational skills he acquired as an Air Force and Korean War veteran, James Forman managed and directed the legions of brave SNCC volunteers, who in the 1960's, descended upon the southern United States to combat the racial injustice that had long festered there.

Today, thousands get academic degrees in public administration and management. I wonder how they might have benefited from talking to James. As a manager and organizer he may have been the best that the civil rights movement ever had. While the movement had many great orators and diplomats, James was a master of the nuts and bolts that make organizations run.

He was also known as something of a field general, willing to endure the same that he asked of his subordinates. James was often harassed, beaten and jailed during his many trips to register voters and organize protests in areas where violence and intimidation ruled. He would see many of his brethren pay the ultimate sacrifice for liberty and justice. This only strengthened his resolve to press on.

Though he left the SNCC in 1966, he would remain a prominent figure throughout the Civil Rights Movement. In subsequent years he would be an outspoken advocate for the socio-economic empowerment of African Americans in the post civil rights era, founding the Unemployment and Poverty Action Committee.

He would also be one of the first African Americans to explicitly call for reparations for the oppressive treatment inflicted on African Americans during their history in this country. Many institutions responded by setting up programs aimed at improving Black communities.

Indeed America has lost much by the passing of Shirley Chisholm and James Forman. But we have gained much by the fact that they lived. They now enter the Pantheon of American patriots whose fearless and unrelenting quest for justice and liberty irrevocably changed this nation for the better.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "What lies behind us, and what lies before us, are tiny matters compared to what lies within us". Shirley Chisholm and James Forman showed the world what lay within them, and now their memories will lie within us forever.

HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CHISPA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Community Housing Improvement Systems and Planning Association, Inc., affectionately called CHISPA, on the occasion of its 25th anniversary. CHISPA is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 Community-based Housing Development Organization, whose California housing projects have served Monterey County's lowest-income population for 25 years, and is the largest private nonprofit housing developer in the area.

CHISPA's Self-Help program allows participants to become homeowners through building their houses themselves. Since 1990, CHISPA's Self-Help program has built 483 homes for approximately 2,560 people in Monterey County alone. This laudable program allows large low-income families to build their own homes with three to four bedrooms, double car garages, vaulted ceilings, landscaped front and back yards, sprinkler systems, and oak cabinets. Working 40 hours per week under the guidance of a construction supervisor, families are able to realize their dream home.

Another worthy CHISPA program is the Moderate Income Housing program in which first-time home buyers receive financial assistance. Beneficiaries of this program include city employees, entry-level professionals, and teachers.

CHISPA Housing and Management, Inc., CHMI, Housing and Maintenance Specialists ensure that houses are of the highest quality by overseeing all construction activities. Program participants learn both construction and maintenance techniques, in addition to valuable management skills. CHISPA contributes to social well-being not only by enabling families to construct beautiful homes, but also by providing participants with a deeper sense of community.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud CHISPA's many accomplishments, and commend them for the tremendous effort they dedicate to enabling families to own their own home. I join the entire community in honoring this truly remarkable organization for its achievements in making the American Dream a reality for so many of our citizens.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNUAL YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOV- ERNMENT CONFERENCE

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the hundreds of students and advisors that will be gathering in Austin from February 3–7 for the 57th annual YMCA Texas Youth and Government Conference. Each year, delegations of high school students from around the Lone Star State travel to Austin to learn about their government through hands-on activities at the State Capitol. I am very proud of the school delegations that travel from the 32nd Congressional District of Texas to attend and learn from this wonderful conference.

My best wishes to Youth Governor Nathan Gonzales of Benbrook, Youth Lt. Governor Grant Reid of Garland, and all of the other youth officers and delegates that will be making a difference in Austin this week. My special thanks to YMCA Texas Youth and Government State Director Suzanne Mabie for all of the tireless hours of service that she commits to make this conference the great success that it is each and every year.

I've had the privilege of being involved with this conference for the last several years and have always been impressed with the talents of the young individuals who are involved with the program. All my best wishes for a successful 57th annual conference in Austin.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. LUCILLE HALLMAN HOLMAN

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lucille Hallman Holman, a South Carolinian native whose dedication to service to God and country shines as an example to all of us. On February 13, 2005, she will celebrate her 100th birthday, and I believe it is important to commemorate her centennial birthday with a few highlights of the many contributions she has made to her church and community.

Mrs. Holman was born in Leesville, South Carolina and began her education in the local public schools. In order to finish high school she was forced to leave home at an early age and matriculated at nearby Betties Academy in Aiken County. She continued her education at Benedict College, a Baptist supported college in Columbia, where she met and married Lewis W. Holman, who was attending Allen University, a nearby African Methodist Episcopal Church supported school.

Mrs. Holman has made significant contributions to society. She joined Chappelle Station African Methodist Episcopal Church in January of 1930, and was appointed to Stewardess Board Number E, where she served for 64 years before retiring in January 1994. In this capacity she also served as a Class Leader.

In July of 1930, Mrs. Holman began working with the Church's Missionaries, and served as President of the Missionary Society for 57 years. Her community involvement extended to serving as the Director of the Church's Young People's Division and as a Trustee of Allen University. She also served as President and Treasurer of the Zoie Social Club.

Reaching out to the widows of her community, she formed the Widows Club, and she still attends the Quadrennial Conventions of the Women's Missionary Society of the A.M.E. Church. In addition to her extensive church and community involvements, Mrs. Holman has maintained tireless devotion to her family, raising her five grandchildren after the death of her son.

Her untiring efforts have not gone unrecognized by her peers and associates. Mrs. Holman has received numerous awards and honors for her active membership in her church and her public service. She was named Woman of the Year by Chappelle Memorial A.M.E. Church in 1995. In May of 2000 the Columbia Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented her with the Golden Years Award. In addition to these distinctions, she has been selected as Mother of the Church.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life and legacy of this venerable woman on her 100th birthday. She continues to blaze a trail in her community through Christian service. She remains a positive influence to future generations, and I wish her happy birthday and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 had I been present, I would have voted "aye." On rollcall vote No. 13 had I been present, I would have voted "no."

HONORING STELLA WELLS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Ms. Stella Wells. On February 17, 2005, family and friends will gather to honor Stella, as she celebrates her 100th birthday.

Stella was born in 1905 in the town of Beech Grove, Arkansas. There, in 1922 under the same roof where she was born, she married farmer Charles Wells. Stella and husband Charley had six sons, 20 grandchildren, 37 great-grandchildren and 31 great-great-grandchildren, and 13 great-great-great-grand-

children. She has a total of 91 living descendants. The two enjoyed a marriage of 54 years.

Stella is a longtime resident of Genesee County. She originally moved to Michigan for a short time in the early 50's and later Stella and Charley moved back to become permanent residents in 1974.

Stella is currently the oldest living member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4087 of Davison. She is also a member of Harmony Baptist Church of Burton as well as Holly Grove Baptist Church of Beech Grove, Arkansas. Along with her many roles in the community, her greatest is as a beloved mother.

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress representing Genesee County, I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in not only recognizing Stella Wells for her outstanding life, but to wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today's debate is an extremely important conversation on the future of Social Security. Unfortunately, it is soured by the sharp rhetoric of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. We simply cannot allow for misleading analysis and flowery language to disguise the truth of this debate. Not only do our current and future retirees deserve better, but also our children and grandchildren, who will be most directly affected by this new proposal, deserve better.

Social Security is truly one of our greatest success stories, virtually eliminating poverty for the aged. While we all agree that important concerns about Social Security should be effectively addressed, I do not believe turning this matter into a crisis should force us to accept what would otherwise be unacceptable. The scenarios touted by the Administration and their Republican allies are better suited for a work of fiction, not a domestic policy debate. Manufacturing a crisis in order to force this ideological agenda on retirees is unacceptable. The \$11 trillion shortfall is a figure plucked out of thin air using fuzzy math based on voodoo economics. And finally, the Administration is selling semi-privatization of Social Security as the solution to all of our problems.

Let's not be fooled by hyperbole. The facts are indisputable and should not be misrepresented by the President or Members of Congress. Crisis? What crisis? If we do absolutely nothing to Social Security, the Trust Fund will be able to pay out 100 percent of benefits for the next 50 years. The real, worst-case scenario shortfall based on a 75-year projection used by the economists at the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Social Security Administration (SSA) would be between \$2 trillion to \$3.7 trillion. While these numbers require our undivided attention, privatizing part of Social Security is not the solution. The President's plan to create private retirement accounts will cost at least \$2 trillion to implement, equivalent to the entire 75-year shortfall predicted by the CBO. In addition, most proponents of semi-privatization admit that the creation of these accounts will not avoid a shortfall on their own merits. In order to

achieve its goal, the Administration is also recommending the guaranteed benefits be cut by as much as 40 percent. This cut is in addition to the diversion of almost a third of Social Security funds to private accounts.

Social Security is the core of old-age support and was intended as an income supplement and a crucial safety net for seniors, not a money making scheme. We must preserve Social Security through sound fiscal discipline and legitimate policy adjustments to meet the demands of future generations. I believe that the Administration should immediately strengthen Social Security by submitting to Congress a balanced budget. If not a balanced budget this year, then the Administration should submit at least a plan or announced course of action on achieving a balanced budget. I also call on the President to reevaluate his tax cut proposal. Making the tax cuts permanent will cost as much as 3 to 5 times the cost of the Social Security shortfall. These fiscally responsible, common sense proposals will help protect Social Security and can be done now. Once these steps are taken we can more responsibly solve any unaddressed concerns. Instead of weakening Social Security I believe that it should be strengthened and made more secure ensuring its success for generations to come. We cannot turn Social Security into Social Insecurity.

SIKHS OBSERVE INDIA'S REPUBLIC DAY AS DAY OF BETRAYAL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, this past Wednesday, January 26, was India's Republic Day, the anniversary of the adoption of their constitution. It is a very important day in India's calendar. The Indian constitution is supposed to guarantee freedom for everyone and ensure everyone full human rights and democratic freedoms. However, in practice, it has not worked that way in the 58 years that India has been independent. I salute the ideals of the Indian constitution, but I cannot urge India strongly enough to start living up to them.

Independent India has been no picnic for the minorities of India. They have suffered severe repression. Sikhs, Christians, Muslims, and others have suffered greatly at the hands of democratic, secular India. That is why Sikhs in Washington, London, and even Amritsar protested on Republic Day. In Amritsar, the Sikh organization Dal Khalsa hoisted the Sikh flag and distributed flyers saying that the Indian flag "is not our flag" and the Indian constitution "is not our constitution." No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

Over a quarter of a million Sikh have been murdered at the hands of the Indian government, along with over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland and still more Christians elsewhere. Priests have been murdered throughout the country, nuns have been raped, churches have been burned, Christian schools and prayer halls have been vandalized. By now, the burning death of missionary Graham Staines and his two young sons and the beating of missionary Joseph Cooper are well known. In recent days, evangelist Benny Hinn

had to travel under heavy security after being attacked and vandalized.

Over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims have been murdered, along with thousands of Muslims in other parts of the country. Recently, according to the BBC, the Indian government finally admitted that Muslims in Gujarat did not set the train fire that led to the massacre of 5,000 of them, a massacre that a policeman told an Indian newspaper was planned in advance by the Indian government.

India forced Untouchables out of a refugee camp after the tsunami, according to Yahoo! News. The Washington Post reported that they were being given only the leftover food of Brahmins and India has refused all efforts by the international community to come and help them. Even though the very Indian constitution that Republic Day celebrates outlawed the caste system, it is alive and well to this day.

Mr. Speaker, these are just the latest examples of the repression of minorities that continues to occur while India celebrates its secular, democratic constitution. This is unacceptable. In the President's recent Inaugural Address, he spoke about extending freedom to all the world. India is one place where that effort needs to be carried out before the country, a multinational, polyglot empire like Austria-Hungary, the Soviet Union, or Yugoslavia, falls apart. We must do whatever we can to ensure freedom and peace for all in the subcontinent.

The best things we can do are to stop our aid and trade with India until human rights are respected and the violent repression ceases and to put ourselves on record in support of a free and fair plebiscite in Punjab, Khalistan, in Kashmir (as promised in 1948), in Nagaland, and throughout the minority areas of the subcontinent.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I would like to place an article about Dal Khalsa's protest in Amritsar and a press release about the Council of Khalistan's protest here in Washington into the RECORD.

COUNCIL OF KHALISTAN,
Washington, DC.

**SIKHS MARK INDIAN REPUBLIC DAY BY
PROTESTING GENOCIDE, REPRESSION**

WASHINGTON, DC, January 26, 2005.—Sikhs from all over the East Coast came to Washington today to mark Indian Republic Day by protesting the genocide and repression against the Sikhs and other minorities. They raised slogans such as "India out of Khalistan" and carried signs such as "India: Democracy for Brahmins, Tyranny for Minorities." The demonstration was organized by the Council of Khalistan, which leads the struggle to establish a sovereign, independent Khalistan free from Indian occupation. On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared its independence from India, naming its new country Khalistan. The Council of Khalistan was established at that time to lead the peaceful, democratic, nonviolent movement to liberate Khalistan from Indian oppression. It is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland.

Republic Day is the anniversary of the adoption of India's constitution, which is supposed to ensure a secular, democratic government. But the Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 300,000 Christians since 1948, over 89,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, Bodos, and others. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." According to a report by the Movement Against State Repression (MASR), 52,268

Sikhs are being held as political prisoners in India without charge or trial. Some have been in illegal custody since 1984! Tens of thousands of other minorities are also being held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. We demand the immediate release of all these political prisoners.

Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been arrested, tortured, and murdered, then their bodies were declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Khalsa was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. No one has been brought to justice for the kidnapping and murder of Jaswant Singh Khalsa. The police never released the body of former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke after SSP Swarn Singh Ghotna murdered him. He has never been tried for the Jathedar Kaunke murder. In 1994, the U.S. State Department reported that the Indian government had paid over 41,000 cash bounties for killing Sikhs.

Missionary Graham Staines was murdered along with his two sons, ages 8 and 10, by a mob of militant, fundamentalist Hindu nationalists who set fire to the jeep, surrounded it, and chanted "Victory to Hanuman," a Hindu god. None of the people involved has been tried. The persons who have murdered priests, raped nuns, and burned Christian churches have not been charged or tried. The murderers of 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat have never been brought to trial. An Indian newspaper reported that the police were ordered not to get involved in that massacre, a frightening parallel to the Delhi massacre of Sikhs in 1984.

"Is Jaswant Singh Khalsa celebrating? Is Jathedar Kaunke celebrating? Is Graham Staines celebrating?" Dr. Aulakh asked. "How can a democracy celebrate the kind of violent repression that claimed their lives?"

When India became Independent, Sikhs were equal partners in the transfer of power and were to receive their own state, but the weak and ignorant Sikh leaders of the time were tricked into staying with India on the promise that they would have "the glow of freedom" and no law affecting the Sikhs would pass without their consent. Sikhs ruled an independent and sovereign Punjab from 1710 to 1716 and again from 1765 to 1849 and were recognized by most of the countries of the world at that time. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution.

History shows that multinational states such as India are doomed to failure. Countries like Austria-Hungary, India's longtime friend the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and others prove this point. India is not one country; it is a polyglot like those countries, thrown together for the convenience of the British colonialists. It is doomed to break up as they did. Last year, the Punjab Legislative Assembly passed a bill annulling all water agreements with the Indian government, preventing the government's daylight robbery of Punjab river water. Punjab needs its river water for its crops. In the bill, the Assembly explicitly stated the sovereignty of Punjab. Political leaders in Punjab have again called for an Independent Khalistan.

"This shows that the drive for freedom is still alive in Punjab," Dr. Aulakh said. "It is clear that India does not accept Sikhs," said Dr. Aulakh. "The Indian government continues to persecute and kill our Sikh brethren," he said. "As Professor Darshan Singh, a former Jathedar of the Akal Takht, said, 'If a Sikh is not for Khalistan, he is not a Sikh,'" Dr. Aulakh noted.

"We must continue to press for our God-given birthright of freedom," he said. "With-

out political power, religions cannot flourish and nations perish. A sovereign Khalistan is essential for the survival of the Sikh religion."

[From WebIndia123.com, Jan. 26, 2005]

DAL KHALSA OBSERVE R-DAY AS "BETRAYAL DAY" IN AMRITSAR

AMRITSAR, January 26, 2005 (ANI).—Leaders of Dal Khalsa on Wednesday gathered at Gurudwara Shahid Ganj, Amritsar to observe the Indian republic day as betrayal day.

The Dal Khalsa leaders, including president of Dal Khalsa Harcharnjit Singh Dhami, Khalistan ideologue Jagjit Singh Chauhan, Satnam Singh Paunta Sahib, hijacker of Indian Airlines plan in 1981 performed a Ardaas for the freedom of the Sikh nation.

They hoisted the Khalsa flag of Maharaj Ranjit Singh's regime, which symbolises Sikh raj, and prayed for the freedom of the Sikh community as they took guard of honour and pledged to continue their struggle for a free Sikh nation.

Dal Khalsa leaders describe 26th January as "betrayal day" for the Sikhs as Indian leaders betrayed the Sikh nation and imposed the present Constitution on them.

They also believe that Sikhs have been massacred in Punjab, Delhi and elsewhere after the Blue Star Operation in 1984.

**RECOGNIZING JOHN LANDERS
UPON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, for the past two years John Landers has served with utmost distinction as a professional staff member of our Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization.

Anticipating an active agenda on Federal workforce issues and oversight when I assumed the Chairmanship of the Government Reform Committee in January of 2003, I requested the loan of a subject expert on civil service law and regulation from the Office of Personnel Management.

The person selected by OPM for this assignment was John Landers. I expected John to be technically competent, but with over 30 years of experience in Federal personnel issues John brought with him an encyclopedic recall of pertinent statutes, regulations, court cases, and precedent that proved invaluable to our Committee's work.

John began his career at the U.S. Civil Service Commission as a retirement claims examiner in 1972. He quickly progressed through the benefits programs to lead the Retirement Policy Division and eventually became a Senior Advisor. As a legislative and policy analyst, John wrote Government-wide regulations as well as legislative proposals on the retirement, health, and life insurance programs. Having learned these programs from the inside out, John took over OPM's Technical Analysis Branch in 1984 and the Retirement Policy Division in 1987, where he helped develop and implement the Government's new retirement system known as "FERS."

In 1998, John became a Senior Advisor to OPM's Associate Director for Retirement and Insurance, and in 2001 became a Special Assistant to the Director of OPM. In these positions John assisted in shaping broad Federal

workforce policy, including introduction of pre-tax benefits as a component of compensation, and personnel elements written into the legislation creating the new Department of Homeland Security. For his contributions John received the Director's Award for Excellence in October 2002.

John retired from OPM in January 2003, but his newly won status was short-lived when he was approached by the Director as her choice to represent the agency with our Committee. I am very grateful that John placed his dedication to public service above his own well-earned interests by accepting the appointment. During the past two years his expertise contributed directly to our key initiatives including establishing the new National Security Personnel System for the Department of Defense, improving benefits for Federal employees and retirees, and providing diligent oversight of personnel management across the Government.

On January 7 of this year, John completed his last day of service with the Committee and resumed his status as "retired." I believe John really means it this time, and we promise not to further interrupt his plans. On behalf of our entire Committee, I express deep appreciation to John for his superb service to our Nation, and I wish him many happy and healthy years ahead to enjoy with his wife Rita and their family.

FLIGHT OF FREEDOM—A JOURNEY TO SAVE JOBS

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw my colleagues' attention to the "Flight of Friendship—A Journey To Save Jobs", which is a heart-warming effort underway in the great state of Oregon. The Flight of Friendship is a people-to-people effort by individuals in Oregon who are coming together to provide an economic lifeline to people in Thailand who work in or are dependent upon the tourism industry for their livelihood. Tourism is recognized as one of the key industries in the tsunami-affected area that provides sustainable jobs and the one that can be jump-started by the return of tourists as in this Flight of Friendship.

The Flight of Friendship's formal mission is an admirable one: In the aftermath of the catastrophic tsunami that struck South Asia on December 26, the natural reaction for us was to do something, anything, that would bring some measure of relief to those in the affected areas. We wanted to do something NOW because we have such a feeling of urgency.

Many of us may not have the skills to rebuild communities or repair broken bones or care for orphaned children, but we do know that our humanity has a purpose. When we can take our time and provide a conduit for information and give face-to-face support by traveling to those areas and help those who need to stay working, we know we are giving something that matters. We can help tell the world that these restaurants, hotels and entertainment venues are open and ready to receive visitors.

Flight of Friendship will focus on cities and regions that depend on the tourist trade for

economic survival. We hope that Oregon's lead and example will challenge others from around the U.S.—private citizens and the travel industry as well, to follow. We encourage people to visit these beautiful, intriguing places and extend an economic lifeline. Flight of Friendship is a journey to save jobs.

Under the leadership of Oregonians Sho Dozono, Joe D'Alessandro and Elaine Franklin, over 100 business and political leaders from the state of Oregon will travel to Thailand this month in a significant effort to help re-establish that country's tourism industry and keep vital jobs in place. I would like to commend every person associated with the Flight of Friendship for his or her dedication to making a real difference.

TRIBUTE TO DR. DAVID LIEBER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. WAXMAN and I pay tribute today to a remarkable individual and a dear friend, Dr. David Lieber. Dr. Lieber will be joined by his colleagues, family and friends on February 10, 2005, at a special University of Judaism dinner to celebrate his 80th birthday. The dinner's theme, "Walking Humbly with God," is especially fitting given the enormity of Dr. Lieber's accomplishments and the humility for which he is well known.

Since 1956 when Dr. Lieber was appointed Dean of Students of the nine-year-old University of Judaism (UJ), he has been a driving force for improvement and expression. He helped transform the University from a Hebrew Teachers Institute that offered adult classes in what is now known as Korea Town into a nationally recognized educational institute complete with an undergraduate college, graduate programs in education, business administration, Jewish studies and rabbinic studies, a large library and two think tanks. He served as University President for an impressive twenty nine years until he retired in 1993.

Dr. Lieber continues to be intellectually and spiritually inspirational to the Jewish community. Since his retirement as University President, he dedicated himself to assembling a superb team of scholars and produced Etz Hayim: Torah and Commentary, a work that makes it possible for millions to benefit from his knowledge and dedication. We have known him for many years and have great respect for his wisdom and guidance.

Throughout his lifetime, Dr. Lieber has worked on behalf of many issues of importance to the Jewish people. He is past president of the Rabbinical Assembly and served on the Assembly's Executive Committee. He chaired its Strategic Planning Committee which evaluated needs of the religious body into the year 2000. He is an ordained Rabbi and former spiritual leader of Sinai Temple in Los Angeles 1950–1954. He served as Chaplain for B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at both the University of Washington and Harvard University. In recognition of his work, he was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters degree, honoris causa by Hebrew Union College in 1982 and the Torch of Learning Award by Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1984.

Dr. David Lieber received a BA, magna cum laude, in 1944 from College of the City of New

York and a Bachelor of Hebrew Letters from Jewish Technological Seminary of America. In 1947 he was awarded a Master's degree from Columbia University and received a Doctor of Hebrew Literature Degree from Jewish Theological Seminary in 1951.

Dr. Lieber and his accomplished wife, Dr. Esther Lieber, were married June 10, 1945, are the proud parents of Michael, Deborah, Daniel, and Susan. They have twelve beautiful grandchildren.

It is our distinct pleasure to ask our colleagues to join us in saluting our dear friend Dr. David Lieber and the institution he built for our children and generations to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to circumstances affecting the health of a family member, I was not present for rollcall vote Nos. 7 through 13 on January 6, 25 and 26. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" with reservations on rollcall vote No. 7, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 8, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 9, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 10, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 11, "yea" on rollcall vote No. 12, "no" on rollcall vote No. 13.

WOMEN AND SOCIAL SECURITY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to denounce the fake Social Security crisis that President Bush is trying to sell to the American public.

As the new Democratic Chair of the Women's Caucus, I am especially concerned because women and children are the first targets to be thrown off the lifeboat.

We expect women to raise families, support elderly family members and take care of children.

But, women lose more years of retirement savings when they stop working to raise kids or take care of parents.

Therefore, they depend more on Social Security when they retire. Social Security has been a strong program for its beneficiaries. In my district in East Los Angeles and the San Gabriel Valley in LA County, there are 59,525 Social Security beneficiaries who rely heavily on their hard-earned monthly Social Security benefits. The average Social Security benefit for these individuals living is \$787 a month.

If we are looking at just retired workers alone, they only receive \$540 a month. For many people, particularly Latinos and other minorities, this benefit is their only source of income. My district is very diverse. Sixty-two percent is Latino, and 18 percent is Asian. Forty-one percent of elderly Latinos have Social Security as their only means of income. Without Social Security, over half of America's Latino elderly would live in poverty. Social Security is especially important for minority women.

They will be left most vulnerable to the Republican privatization scheme because they

earn less on the dollar as to other women. Without Social Security, 61 percent of Latinas over the age of 65 would live below the poverty line. Social Security has been the most successful anti-poverty program perhaps ever to be undertaken. According to a report released today by the National Women's Law Center, the typical widow receives a benefit of \$865 per month. I am frightened to think that Republicans want to strip women of their earned benefits simply because they live longer.

Without Social Security benefits, the poverty rate for unmarried women would be about 60 percent instead of the current 16 percent! But under the leading Republican privatization plan, the benefit would be only \$476 per month. This amount is equal to only 65 percent of the poverty line! Women account for 70 percent of all Social Security beneficiaries older than 85. Women still earn less than men—73 cents to the dollar—and minority women face even larger disparities in wages.

Privatization means that women who are on the edge of poverty living in my district would be at the mercy of an unpredictable stock market. Without guaranteed benefits, these women would be forced to live day-to-day, just trying to put food on the table. These women would lose the "security" from Social Security! Democrats believe that all American workers should get the benefits they paid for.

We want to save, strengthen, and secure Social Security for the future generations. Our senior citizens and future generations should not be guinea pigs for a political experiment. Just like the non-existent weapons of mass destruction—you have been told a scary story by the Republican majority and President Bush. Let me assure you—Social Security is not in a crisis. Democrats will fight to protect your earned benefits.

ORANGE COUNTY GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT SYSTEM

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to support the Orange County Groundwater Replenishment System. This bill is identical to the one I introduced in the 108th Congress as H.R. 1156, which passed the House by voice vote under Suspension of the rules last year.

The bill would increase the authorized Federal share for the Orange County California Groundwater Replenishment (OCGWR) System from \$20 million to \$80 million. This will allow Orange County to complete this important and much-needed project, which will serve about 2.3 million residents of north and central Orange County, and it will create a new water supply of 72,000 acre-feet per year.

The OCGWR project is not just important to Orange County, California, but also to the entire western United States. By recycling our own water, we in Orange County would not have to rely so heavily on water from the Colorado River Aqueduct or the San Francisco Bay Delta.

Moreover, the OCGWR is a highly innovative recycling project—a pilot project for other future water recycling projects. Experts in pub-

lic water management systems, from other States and from countries from around the world, have come to Orange County to look at the tertiary cleaning system that we have. The project is of national and even international significance.

This is a straightforward and reasonable bill. Its passage would simply bring the Federal share of funding closer to 25 percent, the level at which almost every other reclamation project is funded under Federal water reclamation and conservation programs.

This project, and this legislation, has received strong support from Members on both sides of the aisle. As I mentioned previously, the Committee on Resources very generously allowed this same bill to be considered under Suspension of the Rules last year. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Chairman POMBO from California, Ranking Member RAHALL from West Virginia, as well as former Subcommittee Chairman CALVERT and Ranking Member NAPOLITANO of California for their overwhelming support of this bill.

I would also like to thank my colleagues from Orange County for their continued support. Mr. MILLER, Mr. COX, Mr. ROHRBACHER and Mr. ROYCE are strong supporters of this project. Securing funding for the OCGWR has always been, and will continue to be, a bipartisan effort.

Lastly, let me thank Orange County Water District President Phil Anthony, former OCWD Board Chair Denis Bilodeau, and General Manager Virginia Grebbien for their hard work and leadership in groundwater recycling. Their innovation has put Orange County in the forefront of water recycling and groundwater replenishment technology.

I look forward to working on passing this legislation with all of my colleagues, and I thank them again for their continued support.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE ORAL HEALTH PROMOTION ACT

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to announce today the reintroduction of the Oral Health Promotion Act, a bill I previously sponsored in the 107th Congress. I will reintroduce this bill tomorrow and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me as original cosponsors on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, oral health care in the United States is in a sad state of decay. Congress cannot neglect it any longer. While the number of Americans without private health insurance of any kind is staggering enough at over 45 million, the number of Americans without private or public dental insurance is more than two times that figure. One hundred and eight million Americans—at last count—had no dental insurance at all: no coverage for emergency services, no coverage for fillings, no coverage for braces, no coverage for check-ups. Amazingly, despite great advances in oral health sciences, the Surgeon General has reported that tooth decay has become the single most common chronic childhood disease—five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever.

What does our neglect of oral health cost us? Surveys have shown that dental problems

cause children to miss more than 51 million hours of school and adults to miss more than 164 million hours of work each year. That's a lot of lost education, lost productivity and lost pay. And let's be clear—lack of access to dental care does not strike evenly across the socioeconomic spectrum. According to the U.S. Surgeon General:

Poor children suffer twice as many cavities as their more affluent peers, and their disease is more likely to be untreated.

Poor children suffer nearly 12 times more restricted-activity school days than children from higher-income families. (In my own state, which is doing a lot better than the national average on many oral healthcare indicators, a recent study found that 23 percent of children in grades 1–3 experienced 82 percent of all decay found.)

Medicaid has not been able to fill the gap in providing dental care to poor children: Fewer than one in five Medicaid-covered children received a single dental visit in a recent year-long study period.

For each child without medical insurance, there are at least 2.6 children without dental insurance.

For every adult 19 years or older with medical insurance, there are three without dental insurance.

Obviously, there are a lot of factors at play in this problem. But when it comes down to what we can do to increase access to dental care for the largest number of people, the solution, I think, already exists. While many other dental providers close the door to Medicaid and uninsured patients, often because they do not receive adequate reimbursement for the services they provide, Federally Qualified Community Health Centers provided dental services to millions and millions of them last year. Currently, over 1,000 community, migrant, and homeless health centers serve over 15 million people in 3,600 urban and rural communities in every State and territory.

It is clear that focusing on expansion of the dental care infrastructure through these and similar community-based providers will get us the biggest bang for our buck. Community health centers—which serve all patients in their communities regardless of their ability to pay—are on the front lines of getting dental care to those who are least likely to get it, namely those on Medicaid and those with no insurance at all. A lot of praise has been showered on this successful program for many years and from both sides of the aisle, including from President Bush, and rightly so. Now I think we really need to put our money where our mouths are and fund the creation of more dental care infrastructure based on the community health care model.

That is why I am introducing the "Oral Health Promotion Act" to address our national crisis in access to dental care. This bill will make a serious commitment to developing a dental health care infrastructure across our country and expand access to high-quality, affordable dental and health care for all Americans. It will:

(1) Create a \$140 million fund for the workforce, capital and equipment needed to establish or expand oral health services at community health centers, school-based dental centers (and other community-based sites) across the country;

(2) Provide states with an enhanced federal match (FMAP) for agreeing to cover full adult dental benefits under the Medicaid program;

(3) Require that State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) coverage include dental benefits for children;

(4) Authorize and provide additional funding for states to provide dental services under SCHIP as a supplement to other health coverage;

(5) Create incentives for states to pay market-based reimbursement for dental services under SCHIP and Medicaid and to cover the Medicaid level of dental benefits under SCHIP.

I urge my colleagues to join me as original cosponsors of this important legislation, which I will introduce tomorrow.

INAUGURAL LIGHTING OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES' OFFICIAL
WELCOMING MONUMENT,
THE VINCENT THOMAS BRIDGE

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise ask for unanimous consent to address the House for five minutes.

Last Sunday, January 30, it was my pleasure to join with Los Angeles Mayor Jim Hahn, Council members Janice Hahn and Tom LaBong, State Senator Alan Lowenthal, the widow and family of the late California Assemblyman Vincent Thomas and the citizens of Los Angeles for the Inaugural Lighting of the Official Welcoming Monument for the City of Los Angeles—the Vincent Thomas Bridge.

In this time of inaugurations, it is fitting to recognize the bridge that is an integral link to one of this Nation's most active ports and that will serve as a guiding light for economic growth to our city, our State and our country.

Los Angeles is a world-class city and it is the primary point of entry into the United States for people and commerce throughout the Pacific Rim. In fact, many consider Los Angeles to be the capital of the Pacific Rim.

The Vincent Thomas Bridge represents the Gateway into the United States and I can think of no greater monument to our world-class city and to the great people of Los Angeles and the southern California region.

Sunday's event was the culmination of the collective efforts of a broad section of Los Angelinos over the last 16 years. This monument will serve as a beacon for California, the Nation and the World as to all that is good and great about Los Angeles.

I want to take this time to congratulate the members of the Vincent Thomas Bridge Lighting Committee of San Pedro and their President, Louis Dominguez for the hard work they have done to help make today happen.

Their efforts in raising the \$1,002,657 necessary to realize this project are to be commended. I would also like to thank the Port of Los Angeles and the Department of Water and Power for their major funding of this project.

Nestled in the San Pedro and Wilmington communities, the 41-year-old Vincent Thomas Bridge is named for the late State assemblyman who 50 years ago led the fight in the California legislature to build the bridge. Today it is a vital transportation link for the Port of Los Angeles.

But the Vincent Thomas Bridge also brings regional economic forces that have a profound

impact on our regional and national economies.

As the southern California region continues to grow, so does the significance of the Vincent Thomas Bridge.

The Vincent Thomas Bridge connects the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, creating the largest port complex in the country and third largest in the world. Together, these ports are responsible for upwards of 45 percent of the containerized cargo that enter our country. In addition, approximately 80 percent of the goods that come into this country from the Pacific Rim come through these two ports.

These ports are true economic engines.

In 2002, the annual value of the trade handled by Southern California's two ports was \$172 billion. It is estimated that in 2010 that number will grow to \$253 billion a year.

In 2002, trade through southern California ports supported over 3.7 million jobs nationwide.

As a Senior Member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in Washington, I can tell you that I too have fought to make sure that the Nation knows the importance of our bridges, highways and ports in Los Angeles County to the economic well being of our country.

The goods that move through the southern California ports impact us all, some States more than others.

For example, annually \$16 billion worth of goods move through our ports to New York, that is \$7.8 billion a month. Illinois receives \$12 billion a year and \$1 billion a month in goods from southern California. And Texas receives \$11.8 billion a year or \$983 million a month.

I could go on, but instead would like to extend a standing invitation to my colleagues to visit this bridge and to visit our ports here in Los Angeles and Long Beach so that they too can get a first hand look at one of the major economic engines that helps drive our national economy.

THE NEXT STEP IN IRAQ IS AN
EXIT STRATEGY

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, millions of average Iraqis defied the threats of violence and took a courageous first step toward democracy and self-governance. The images of Iraqis voting for the first time were truly uplifting. But before this Administration declares "Mission Accomplished" all over again, we cannot ignore the challenges that remain. We cannot simply hope that the elections will make the insurgency go away, or put an end to the violence. For too long, our entire strategy in Iraq has been based on waiting and hoping. Now more than ever, we need a real strategy to make Iraq stable and self-sufficient and bring our troops home.

President Bush came into office with clear ideas about when we use our military power and put our forces in harm's way. Five years ago, when he was running for President, Governor George W. Bush criticized President Clinton for not having an exit strategy in Kosovo. This is what he said: "Victory means

exit strategy, and it's important for the President to explain to us what the exit strategy is." Two years ago, President Bush sent our armed forces into Iraq without a plan to win the peace. We had no exit strategy and therefore no victory strategy.

Two years later, we still don't. The elections are a step forward in a long process of making Iraq politically independent. But the elections don't change the fact that Iraq is still not secure. The 150,000 American troops in Iraq are no less at risk than they were last week, which sadly was one of the most tragic weeks of the war. Despite the election, the reality on the ground is unchanged—security in Iraq is not getting better—it's been getting steadily worse since the summer of 2003. The occupation is not making Iraq secure—it's only fueling the violence.

The Bush Administration has no endgame in sight. Their only strategy is to hope that security will get better. But it didn't get better after we captured Saddam, after we transferred sovereignty, or after we went into Fallujah. We can hope, but we can't plan on security improving now that Iraq has had elections. We can't count on security in Iraq getting any better as long as the United States has 150,000 troops in Iraq, and as long as we are viewed as an occupying power. That's why we need an exit strategy that includes a timetable for a U.S. withdrawal. It's the only way to change the dynamic on the ground.

A new Zogby poll in Iraq that found that 65 percent of Iraqis want us to leave, including 68 percent of Shiites and 80 percent of Sunnis. We need to recognize that the presence of 150,000 U.S. forces on Iraqi soil is fueling the insurgency. Over the last year, we've sent more troops to Iraq, but the insurgency has only gotten stronger, more sophisticated, and more deadly. We're creating more insurgents than we're neutralizing. We've killed or captured more than 1,000–3,000 insurgents every month for more than a year. But the insurgency has quadrupled in size, from at least 5,000 to at least 20,000. The Iraqi Intelligence Minister estimates that there are 200,000 Iraqis who are providing support for the insurgents.

Iraqis who voted on Sunday rejected the anti-democratic, terrorist ideology of Zarqawi. But for the most part, the insurgency in Iraq is not comprised of foreign terrorists or high-ranking Baathists. More than 95 percent of the detainees we have in Iraq are Iraqis, and more than 95 percent of those captured in the strike on Fallujah. Only a handful of the Baathists on the most-wanted list are still at large.

To have any chance of success in Iraq we need to understand whom we're fighting against. The insurgency is not comprised of any one group, and they don't subscribe to any one ideology. They are united only by their opposition to the occupation. And they are receiving support from pockets of the Iraqi civilian population that have become embittered with the occupation.

The open-endedness of the occupation also threatens to undermine the credibility of the moderate Iraqi leaders who are seen working with us. Most of the main political slates ran on the platform that they would be best suited to remove U.S. forces from Iraq. It can't happen today. But as the President of Iraq, Ghazi al-Yawar, said today, the U.S. can remove some troops over the course of this year. It's

critical that we send a signal that this occupation will not last forever.

When President Bush says we're going to stay "for as long as it takes," Iraqis take that to mean we're going to stay there indefinitely. Now that there is an elected Iraqi government, we need to have an endgame. We also need to make absolutely clear that we aren't seeking a permanent military foothold in Iraq. The President has not yet made that clear.

Under the plan I've proposed, the United States will announce its intentions to withdraw most of our forces this year. By next summer, only a small contingent of troops will remain, staying in the background to assist in the training of Iraqi forces. A smaller, lighter presence would prevent the formation of ethnic militias and the outbreak of civil war. But by staying in the background, it won't provoke bitterness and anti-Americanism among the Iraqi people. A timetable for a drawdown of U.S. forces sends a message to Iraq's new government and Iraqi security forces that soon they'll be responsible for their own security.

The two elements that are key to any exit strategy are training Iraqi forces and investing in reconstruction projects that will create jobs in Iraq. The training of Iraqi security forces didn't begin in earnest until Lt. Gen. Petraeus was put in charge this past June—more than a year after it should have. For too long, Iraqi forces were given only a couple weeks training and sent to fight experienced insurgents.

With the United States providing an open-ended guarantee for security in Iraq, untrained Iraqis saw little reason to risk their lives. As a result, their initial performance was mixed at best.

However, their performance on Sunday was encouraging. For the first time, Iraqi forces served in the foreground, with U.S. forces in the background. After a belated start, Gen. Petraeus has the training program on track. Iraqi forces are now given months of training, not weeks. If we continue to train Iraqi security forces, we can give them steadily more responsibility beginning in the coming weeks. That will allow us to bring home the vast majority of our forces over the next 12–18 months.

As we decrease our military presence, we must maintain our commitment to the Iraqi people just as we did in postwar Europe with the Marshall Plan. Our role must change from occupying Iraq to assisting Iraq in economic reconstruction. Iraq's unemployment rate continues to be 30–40 percent, and millions of Iraqis have gone without basic services. It's an outrage that of \$22 billion that Congress has committed to reconstruction, only \$4.3 billion has actually been spent in Iraq. And up to 50–70 percent of that money has been spent on security for foreign contractors.

Yesterday the Inspector General for Iraq reconstruction said that almost \$9 billion that the CPA transferred to government agencies in

Iraq is entirely unaccounted for. That needs to change. We need to invest in projects that will provide immediate jobs for Iraqis, not foreign contractors.

Finally, there are the unresolved political issues in Iraq. The key political question in Iraq now is whether Sunnis will be at the table as Iraq's constitution is drafted. Announcing an American troop drawdown will put pressure on the new Iraqi government to include Sunnis in the process. At the same time, the less the new government is seen as depending on us, the more it gains in popularity and credibility among all factions within Iraq.

Tomorrow night, in this chamber, the President has another opportunity to present something he should have presented two years ago—an exit strategy from Iraq. 150,000 troops remain in Iraq, including the 12,000 that were sent to enhance security for the elections. President Bush is asking Congress for an additional \$80 billion to fund this war. The President cannot continue to ask American troops to shoulder the sacrifice, and American taxpayers to foot the bill, without light at the end of the tunnel.

Congress must demand of President Bush what he demanded of President Clinton five years ago—an exit strategy. Victory means exit strategy, and it's important for the President to explain to us what the exit strategy is.